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Inquiry call as franchise is halted

Rail sell-off undermined by fraud claim

By JONATHAN PYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT plans for a high-profile launch of rail privatisation were left in disarray yesterday as ministers faced demands for a criminal investigation into allegations that a new private operator was involved in ticket fraud.

The sale of the London, Tilbury and Southend service, known as "The Misery Line", was stopped by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, just ten hours before it was due to go ahead.

At 2am yesterday, the first private companies took control of scheduled passenger services since the railways were nationalised in 1948.

South West Trains from Waterloo to Hampshire and Dorset, and Great Western to South West London and Surrey, will run 1,000 trains a day.

LTS was due to take over its service at the same time but a routine audit by British Rail accountants on Thursday uncovered "a serious breach" of ticket revenue allocation rules, involving up to £30,000 a month.

The revenue due to London, Tilbury and Southend, which shares several stations with LTS Rail, are believed to have been re-routed to the train operator's bank although there has been no question of personal financial gain, Colin Andrews, the commercial director of the LTS management team, resigned on Friday.

Department of Transport officials were told immediately and Chris Kinchin-Smith, the managing director of LTS Rail, informed his five-year board on Friday that Mr Andrews had resigned.

Ministers spent Friday pondering whether the sale of the franchise should be stopped. On Saturday, a story appeared in a national newspaper and the BBC's South East television programme reported Mr Andrews's resignation. Sir George decided to ditch the sale at around 3pm on Saturday.

Brian Wilson, the shadow transport spokesman, said yesterday he had written to the Director of Public Prosecutions urging an immediate inquiry because the breach involved public money. "This is not an internal matter for the Government," he said.

Labour will seek to exploit the issue again on Wednesday when they have a Commons debate on rail privatisation. Sir George played down the postponement of the franchise. "This is a momentous day for the railways and I hope that in years to come

people will look back on today as a turning point — the point at which the renaissance of the railways began," he said.

"We would have liked to have got three out of three away today but we have got two out of three... I hope we can sort out the matter of LTS Rail quite soon. It is a good bid, they have promised new rolling stock and an improved service."

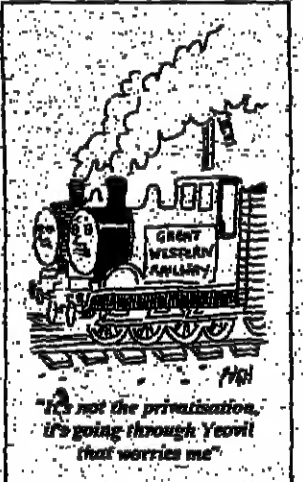
However, he could not disguise the damage inflicted on the Government by the affair. Ministers had hoped that it had weathered the worst of the political storm over its highly unpopular rail privatisation proposals.

Experts said the incident raised new concerns about the structure of the new rail franchises, in which dozens of private operators must co-operate over the allocation of ticket revenue. Twelve franchises, almost half those up for sale, have to share revenue with London Transport.

It was claimed that the first privatised train was in fact a bus when engineering works forced South West Trains' 112am Sunday service from Waterloo to Southampton Central to finish at Eastleigh, Hampshire. Passengers had to disembark and board a bus for the last five miles.

"It is a fiasco," said Mr Wilson, who was at Eastleigh station at 3am yesterday morning to meet the bus. "The first train has turned out to be a bus and there's going to be an awful lot of that under privatisation."

Leading article, page 17



"It's not the privatisation, it's going to happen whether you like it or not"

Ashdown on attacks alert

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

PADDY ASHDOWN and his family are bracing themselves for further trouble after being warned by police that they are facing a vendetta by a few of his constituents in Yeovil.

The police are worried about malicious allegations linking the Liberal Democrat leader to a message parlour. Mr Ashdown is known to be bewildered by recent attacks on him, including the petrol bombing of his car last week.

The accusations concerning a message parlour six doors away from the Liberal Democrat headquarters in Yeovil could be made under the legal protection of court proceedings on Thursday before magistrates in the town. Mr Ashdown is said to deny all allegations emphatically and to be prepared to counter the

false claims. Mr Ashdown and his wife, Jane, spent the weekend at their home in Norton, sub-Hamdon. The police have taken the threats so seriously that surveillance equipment was installed in the garden.

Mr Ashdown, a former officer in the Special Boat Squadron, has tried to shrug off previous attacks. In the past couple of months, a window of his car has been smashed with a stone, he has had threatening letters and said he was held at knife-point during a late-night investigation of alleged race attacks on local restaurants. The attacks on his car are thought to have been carried out by local criminals angry at his campaign launched last year to crack down on racially-motivated attacks in his constituency.

Two years ago, City Girl, a message parlour, was closed down by the Liberal Democrat-led local council over planning irregularities. Peter Stoodley, the former owner of the parlour, was later jailed for six months for living off immoral earnings. He is now trying to sell a story to a national newspaper based on unfounded allegations linking Mr Ashdown to a former woman employee of City Girl.

Yesterday a leading member of Mr Ashdown's Partnership Against Racial Harassment said the false rumours were being spread by people angry about the MP's stand on racism.

Violence in Yeovil, page 3

New kingspins, page 5

Police say gangs are ousting godfathers

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN has more than 300 criminal gangs with between 5,000 and 10,000 members who pose a greater threat than the Triads, the Mafia and the Yardies, according to a police report on organised crime.

The report, drawn up by senior detectives from 11 forces, will show that a new breed of young gangster is ousting the traditional underworld families. The gangs are supported by 300 top criminals who finance their operations.

They operate across towns and cities, making their money from an ever-expanding trade in drugs, theft of performance cars, serious fraud and armed robbery.

Although violence is used in "turf wars", there is so much criminal business available that the gangs do not need to compete, it says.

The report is to be circulated to Chief Constables this month, will show that police are ill-prepared to deal with the growing threat because of poor co-operation between forces, parochial attitudes and inadequate intelligence.

Chief Constables are already making plans for the creation of a new national CID unit, and MIS is being brought in. At a private briefing to discuss the plans last month, Colin Phillips, the assistant Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, said: "The biggest threat is now from local criminals who organise themselves for a common purpose. There is no godfather who runs everything."

They operate across towns and cities, making their money from an ever-expanding trade in drugs, theft of performance cars, serious fraud and armed robbery.

Woman firefighter dies in blaze

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A YOUNG woman became the first female firefighter to die on active duty yesterday when the roof of a blazing supermarket collapsed after she went inside to check for trapped people.

Fleur Lombard, 21, was hit by falling debris after entering the building with another officer. He went home after treatment for facial burns, cuts and bruises.

The two were found and pulled clear by six colleagues after becoming trapped minutes after fighting their way into Leo's supermarket in Staple Hill, near Bristol. Paramedics tried to revive Miss Lombard but she died minutes after reaching hospital.

Miss Lombard had been a firefighter for about two years. She was one of the first women to join the 700-strong Avon

Fire Brigade full-time, having served in Derby as a part-time retained firefighter. Only a handful of women have taken the opportunity to become firefighters since Britain allowed them to serve on active duty in 1982.

Her father, Roger Lombard,



Lombard: searched for trapped people

a businessman, of Furness Vale, New Mills, Derbyshire, said: "We were extremely proud of her. She died doing what she wanted to do."

"She achieved one extremely high distinction of being the first female fire officer to be awarded the Silver Axe." The honour goes to the best recruit on each course.

Rob Seaman, 27, the officer in the building with Miss Lombard, was recovering at home last night with his wife, Sarah, and their six-month-old daughter.

John Terry, Avon deputy chief fire officer, said: "Our job was to get in straight away and that was what she did. She died doing her job. Everyone in the brigade is absolutely devastated."

The alarm was raised about midday by Sylvia Anstey, 45, who lives near by. She said: "I saw a blanket of thick black

smoke gushing through the windows. A couple of people were climbing out of ground-floor office windows."

Staff cleared the building within minutes of flames being seen. It took four hours to bring the blaze, attended by 60 firefighters with eight fire appliances and a turntable ladder, under control. The building was gutted.

Last night the fire's cause was still being investigated. The brigade confirmed that investigators were looking at the possibility that a flashover, or rolling wall of flame, caused by spirits from the drinks section, had exploded and brought the roof down.

The tragedy came three days after two part-time firefighters — Stephen Griffin, 42, and Kevin Lane, 32 — died in Blaenau, Gwent. They had gone back into a house to rescue a child already saved.

Risk of 'IRA split over peace process'

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THERE IS a danger of an IRA split over the slow pace of the Northern Ireland peace process, George Mitchell, who chaired the advisory body on decommissioning terrorist arms, said yesterday.

Amid fears in the Province that IRA terrorists were responsible for a gun attack on the home of an RUC officer last week, Mr Mitchell said there was the potential for "direct and violent action" by the IRA. Speaking on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*, the former US senator, who held lengthy discussions with the Sinn Féin leadership last month during the preparation of his report, said: "I think there is a danger of a fracture within that organisation. It seems clear that not all on the

republican side favour the ceasefire and the potential for some elements to take direct and violent action, I think, does remain."

Mr Mitchell said he hoped that the IRA would not split because it would be a "tragedy of huge proportions" if violence resumed. He added that the best way of underpinning the peace process would be to bring Sinn Féin and the loyalist parties further into the political process.

"I do believe that the political parties that are closely associated with the paramilitary organisations on both sides... are committed to the process. That's why I believe it's important to draw them further into the democratic

Continued on page 2, col 5

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Burglars get by with help from a little friend

By PETER FOSTER

RUSSELL BROWN, 4, thought they were two unexpected friends to keep him company after he woke to go to the lavatory in the middle of the night.

He chatted politely to the burglars, helpfully pointing out his mum and dad's most valued possessions. He promised to be a good boy and make no noise while his parents slept upstairs.

He showed them the video recorder and the hi-fi. He told them where his mother kept her purse hidden in the kitchen, with more than £200 set aside for the week's groceries. He obliged with another £100 from the mortgage fund in a pot at the

back of a cupboard in the living room. He remembered that the garden shed at the bottom of the garden at his home in Alderman's Green, Coventry, was never locked. The burglars helped themselves to Russell's father's Christmas present, a power drill.

Russell held open the back door while his new friends loaded their haul into a car. He went back to bed, while his parents Russell and Wendy and his sister Reanne, 2, slept on. Mr Brown, 31, said: "Wendy was woken up at about 3am by the toilet light, but I told her to go back to sleep because I was sure it would just be Russell going to the loo."

At 9am Reanne woke them to say they

had better get up because Russell had made a mess in the living room. They took the children to Mrs Brown's sister, who telephoned later to say that Russell had confessed to his part in the burglary last week. "We thought he was dreaming it," Mr Brown said, "but the police said that he was telling the truth. His description of events was too detailed to be made up."

The Browns said they had not punished their son because he thought he had done the right thing. "At the end of the day you've just got to laugh about it. Anything could have happened to him, so we're glad he's OK."

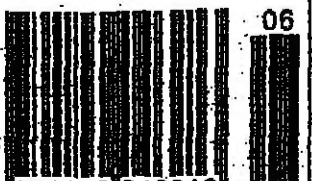
Three men have been arrested and charged in connection with the burglary.



Russell Brown, 4, chatted politely to night visitors

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Attack on Ashdown exposes violent Yeovil street life

BY ADRIAN LEE

THE hate campaign against Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, which culminated in the petrol-bombing of his car last week, has drawn attention to the darker side of the apparently tranquil market town of Yeovil.

A small gang of petty criminals is blamed for the increasing violence in the town centre, with rising vandalism, arson and racist attacks. Anyone daring to stand up to them becomes a target.

The Somerset town is to install closed-circuit television cameras later this month, to try to tackle the problem. Many people say they are afraid to venture into the town centre after dark because it becomes the domain of drunk and yobs looking for trouble.

Tony Fife, a Liberal Democrat councillor and former mayor of Yeovil, said: "The trouble is orchestrated by a gang of petty criminals. Unfortunately, they are giving the town a bad name nationally."

Mr Fife is also a shopkeeper who has suffered at the hands of thugs. "While I was mayor, I had my shop windows put through 12 times, simply because I represented authority. At night, part of the town centre is intimidating — you sense an atmosphere of violence."

"But we have to get this into perspective. I am very proud of Yeovil, and its problems are no worse than any other town of a similar size."

Yeovil, with a population of 45,000, is surrounded by at-

tractive villages such as Norton-sub-Hamdon where Mr Ashdown has his home, but the town centre is an incongruous mix of old buildings and ugly modern precincts.

The trouble is focused on a street known as "Takeaway Alley", a pedestrianised route leading from Yeovil's three nightclubs to a cluster of kebab restaurants and take-aways at the bottom end of town. On the same street, a massage parlour, which was the front for a brothel, was closed by the Liberal Democrat council. The decision angered local criminals.

Mr Ashdown's stand

against racism — he founded the Partnership against Racial Harassment after attacks took place at several of the restaurants in Takeaway Alley — is also thought to have made him a target. A local newspaper which supported his campaign was firebombed.

Invariably, the violence is drink-related and the nightly problems involve the young. Martin Webb, manager of a hotel in the town centre, said he was now trying to encourage an older clientele. "Any-one under 22 or 23 we don't really want. I have put a couple of lads on the doors, to try to encourage older people

to come in, and changed the style of music. The clubs kick out between 2am and 4am, and all you hear is windows going. It is a hard job for the police and, without doubt, it is getting worse."

Yesterday morning, at 2.15, two youths stood urinating in a shop doorway, seemingly oblivious to passers-by. Two police officers stood watch at the other end of the precinct, where a drunken youth was goading them by pushing a beefburger towards their faces. Threatened with arrest, he walked off, then lashed out with his foot at a taxi. The driver did not want action taken but some of his colleagues now carry small coshes to protect themselves.

Earlier a group of skin-heads had jostled a homeless beggar who had the temerity to ask for a few pence. One youth, swigging from a bottle of strong cider, tore away the newspapers the man was using for warmth and shouted at him: "Why don't you get a job?"

Down the road, a girl screamed abuse at another young woman: "Tell your mate she's going to get her head ripped off."

The two officers were called to a fight outside a nightclub, but by the time they arrived it was over. They followed a gang of young men from the club through town. "I'll bet my pension that if we hadn't followed them, a window would have gone through," said one.



Paddy and his wife Jane yesterday



Elizabeth at 13: "a haunting loneliness, a reluctant but obsessive secrecy"

Elizabeth I portrait 'reveals a childhood of abuse'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A PSYCHIATRIST who has studied the earliest known portrait of Elizabeth I believes it shows that she was abused as a child. Dr Elinor Kapp, a consultant in child and adolescent mental health with a special interest in the history of art, says the expression of "frozen watchfulness" is reminiscent of the victims of deprived or abused childhoods.

The portrait, which hangs in the present Queen's collection at Windsor Castle, shows Elizabeth at 13 in the last year of the reign of her father, Henry VIII. Dr Kapp writes in the *Psychiatric Bulletin*: "Her eyes are candid but the set of her head on the neck and the folded lips show a wariness that gradually, as one studies the picture, becomes the most striking thing about it. There is a haunting loneliness about its reluctant but obsessive secrecy... a frozen watchfulness that recalls to me countless victims of deprived or abused childhoods."

Dr Kapp points out that when Elizabeth was three her mother, Anne Boleyn, was beheaded; she was regarded as illegitimate, had three stepmothers and was the subject of constant scheming. If her childhood "were translated into modern terms, social workers would have been round at Henry's door constantly".

Police keep a cooler head in the fight against crime

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE officers in Greater Manchester are to become the first in England and Wales to switch from the traditional helmet to a modern cap.

A national police committee is looking at the future of the traditional uniform. The decision by Greater Manchester, which is one of the largest forces in the country, is likely to influence other forces.

Police are divided over the value of the traditional helmet, but its disappearance would be mourned as the loss of another distinctly British symbol, following the demise of red telephone boxes.

Scottish forces abandoned the helmet in the 1950s. English and Welsh forces had fiercely debated its end and until now decided to keep it.

Next month the operational

officers in the 7,200-strong Manchester force will put aside their helmets and switch to a new-style of working uniform for the year 2,000. The traditional serge tunic will be swapped for a flame-proof continental blouson, and every officer will wear lightweight bullet-proof vests.

The helmet will be kept for ceremonial purposes which are likely to be rare. The helmet, taken originally from a design for the Prussian army, was first issued to London police in 1863. It is still made from dyed rabbits' fur, cork and cotton.

Some officers, including Sir Peter Imbert, the former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, and Fred Broughton, the chairman of the Police Federation, have defended the

traditional helmet. They argue that the public links it to a British style of community policing.

Others officers argue the helmet is unwieldy to wear during a chase and impossible to keep on while getting in and out of a patrol car. It is hot in the summer and a target for people wanting to attack police. One Manchester officer said yesterday: "The officers welcome the change. They want a working uniform. The helmet is always being left in the back of cars and it is the first thing to fall off in a chase. It is no protection unless you put the chinstrap down and most officers never wear it with the strap down. Working police on the streets just want to something that is easy to wear."

Day out in Inverness attracts the stars

THOUSANDS lined the streets of Inverness as celebrities gathered for the world premiere of the film *Loch Ness*. Its stars, Ted Danson, Joely Richardson and 11-year-old Kirsty Graham, were joined by Koo Stark, Bob Geldof and Annette Rice on a march through the town on Saturday, led by a pipe band. Two chartered jets carried more than 200 guests from London. Sniggers ran through the audience as the Provost, William Fraser, welcomed "Ted Dancing" to Inverness. Danson, who says he is descended from the MacMaster clan of Argyll, smiled as the Provost repeated his mistake later.

The 83-year-old La Scala cinema is one of the smallest to stage a world premiere. Executives from Polygram, which funded the film, are said to have been attracted by its elaborate decor.

Jersey sacks three honorary officers

BY BILL FROST

THREE long-serving members of Jersey's honorary police force have been sacked for alleged racial discrimination against a Brazilian clergyman who ministers to the island's Portuguese community.

The sackings came after they jointly tendered their resignations when the Rev Vivaldo Filho was made a constable's officer. Stephanie Nicolle, Jersey's acting Attorney-General, said the attitude displayed by the three showed that they were "unfit to carry out their duties".

Miss Nicolle told Gerry Sutherland, Alan Allix and Lilian Minchinton that they would not be allowed to leave the honorary police of their own volition but were being forced out for discriminating against a fellow officer "on the grounds of national or racial origin". Mr Sutherland's wife Annette denied that her husband and his two colleagues were racist. "This was simply a clash of person-

alities. Gerry is not a racist, he has helped lots of black and coloured people in his 17 years with the police. We are terribly upset at what has happened."

Senhor Filho, who has lived in Jersey for ten years and is a British citizen, has questioned the claim that a "clash of personalities" was at the heart of an increasingly acrimonious affair. He said he had never worked with the three and met them only once, when he was elected last December.

Yesterday Senhor Filho refused to comment on the affair, but one of his supporters warmly welcomed the sackings. Leonard Springate said: "Thank God they have been given their marching orders. This has been a thoroughly disgusting business. The Rev Vivaldo is a wonderful man who gives his all to the community. He is a real Christian, which is more than can be said for some on this island who have now got their just deserts."

Chill brings record payout

A FRESH blast of Arctic weather was heading for Britain yesterday, just as it was announced that cold weather payments by the Department of Social Security have already doubled the previous record.

So far this winter, £47 million has been paid to vulnerable groups. The previous highest pay-out was £23 million in the winter of 1991-92.

More than 5.6 million individual payments have been made, with people in some areas receiving the £8.50 weekly award more than once. Eligible households in the Aviemore and Braemar

areas of Scotland have received a total of £42.50 for five separate cold snaps. The payments are triggered when the average temperature is forecast or recorded at zero celsius or below for seven consecutive days, and is available from November 1 until March 31 to people on income support including pensioners, the disabled, and families with children under five.

Roger Evans, a junior Social Security Minister, said: "The payout shows the scheme is working well. The payments are reaching those people who need the help most. Payments are now

made automatically. There is no longer any requirement to put in a separate claim. Also, when payments are made as a result of a forecast and the weather is not as cold as the forecast predicts, we do not recoup the money."

Snow was forecast to move in from the west this morning, reaching a depth of several inches, and hitting London and the South East by this evening. The Meteorological Office said temperatures in the next couple of days would rarely rise above freezing.

America's freeze, page 10
Forecast, page 20

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مكتبة النور

Dismayed Tories to meet over MP's fate

By Alice Thomson

THE political fate of David Ashby, the Tory MP who lost a libel action in December over a report that branded him a homosexual, liar and hypocrite, will be decided at a special meeting of his local Tory party next month.

He held long discussions yesterday with senior local party members who did not hide their dismay at his behaviour. The constituency party of North-West Leicestershire, which Mr Ashby won with a majority of 979, is concerned about his £500,000 legal bill and by the sleaze allegations. They were embarrassed by members of the Ashby family giving vitriolic testimony against each other.

Mr Ashby, 55, met the chairman, vice-chairman and four members of the association at his home in Ravenstone for more than three hours. They made clear that they did not want a by-election which they would almost certainly lose but would like fresh blood to fight Labour at the next general election.

Golfing tycoon stripped of title bans club

By Ian Murray

A GOLF club is being evicted from a course owned by a tycoon who was stripped of the world's leading pro-am golf title last week for alleged cheating.

Members of the Welcombe Golf Club have been told that they will not be able to renew their subscriptions, which expire at the end of this month. The course is in a 157-acre park around the Welcombe Hotel near Stratford-upon-Avon, bought for an estimated £17 million six years ago by Masashi Yamada, a Japanese property magnate.

Tom Wood, the club chairman, said: "We are being tipped out on to the street with nowhere to go and have been given no reason for it whatsoever. Our members are shattered and I have seen one senior member in tears."

"We have a great community spirit and want to stay together but the clubs round here are full with long waiting lists and none could take in all our 407 members." The club

has used the course since 1982, paying more than £250,000 a year for facilities including a clubhouse.

There was no written contract but Mr Wood, 70, said: "We had a gentleman's agreement to use the course and nobody ever complained about anything we did. It is a fine course and we are proud of it."

The course has been highly regarded since it was upgraded to 18 holes in 1978 and last year the club hosted the Midland PGA championship.

Last week Mr Wood was called in by John Moore, the hotel's general manager, and told that members would not be allowed to use the course after February 29. They pay annual fees of £505 of which £475 is passed on to the hotel.

A spokesman at the hotel said last night that the course was being closed for refurbishment. It was not known how long this would take or whether the club members would be allowed back after-



Tom Wood, right, on the course yesterday with the club secretary, Gary Cooper

wards, he said. Hotel guests would continue to be allowed to play the course.

Mr Yamada, 72, is a keen golfer who last year partnered Bruce Vaughan, a little known American professional, in the Pebble Beach Pro-Am championship, which was founded by Bing Crosby in 1964. The

pair won the title ahead of some of the best-known names in golf thanks largely to a succession of fine rounds by Mr Yamada, who was playing off a handicap of 15.

The organisers later discovered that Mr Yamada's true handicap was ten strokes better than the one he had used to

help him to the title. His incorrect handicap had been issued by a club he owns in Japan. The organising committee, chaired by Clint Eastwood, decided on the evidence to strip the title from Mr Yamada.

Woodsman wins, page 22

MPs unite to back Bill outlawing ageism in job adverts

By Alice Thomson
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government will come under pressure this week to outlaw age discrimination in job advertisements after a study by Age Concern found that nearly 20 per cent bar people over 40.

More than 200 MPs of all parties are supporting a backbench Bill this Friday to help to fight ageism, which hinders millions of older people seeking work or a change of job. According to Age Concern, only 52 per cent of men aged 60 to 64 are economically active compared with nearly 90 per cent in 1951.

In one Sunday newspaper last week over 25 per cent of job adverts included phrases such as "You are probably under 40" or "Those over 50 need not apply". Most recruitment agencies are also backing the Bill. They conducted their own survey of 250 personnel directors, which showed 86 per cent regarded the under-35s as their ideal recruits for jobs ranging from cleaners to senior managers.

The Bill, introduced by David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall, would outlaw blatant age bars in job advertisements. Mr Winnick says that similar legislation has already successfully combated sexism, racism and discrimination against the disabled.

The Labour front bench has also pledged to introduce anti-age discrimination laws if it comes to power. Age discrimination is illegal in America, Australia and parts of Europe but the Government says it prefers a voluntary code of practice, claiming that legislation in America is unenforceable. The Confederation of British Industry says older workers cost more and are harder to retrain.

Phillip Walker, who runs the Campaign Against Age Discrimination in Employment, tried to commit suicide when he lost his directorship of an advertising company. He has compiled 5,000 case histories of age discrimination. "We have a range of people who have been discriminated against from security officers in supermarkets to chief executives," he said.

Lords warn of fishing job losses

A House of Lords select committee has given a warning that overfishing could lead to huge job losses and the demise of fishing communities. The Earl of Selborne, chairman of the Lords Science and Technology Committee, said that the "stupid" quota system encouraged overfishing and that the Government had not given the problem serious attention until recently. "We are depleting our stocks, for a failure of political will," he said.

Police raid club

Police raided a nightclub near Stockton-on-Tees, arresting 25 people for suspected drugs offences. More than 200 officers from the Cleveland and Northumbria forces were involved, searching the Coliseum club with dogs while a helicopter monitored the scene.

Hi-tech purée

Purée from genetically modified tomatoes goes on sale at Sainsbury's and Sainsbury's today. Scientists have taken one of the "rotting" genes out of the tomato to allow longer-lasting, firmer-textured fruit to be produced. The modified tomato itself is not for sale.

Ban on couples

The Royal Navy plans to enforce its ruling against married couples serving together by ordering them to speak up if they are posted to the same ship. Even if two ratings marry while serving together, one will normally be moved elsewhere.

Train surfers

Two boys who were caught "train surfing" — riding on top of fast-moving rail carriages — may be prosecuted in what is thought to be the first case of its kind, police said yesterday. The boys, aged 12 and 14, were caught in Birkenhead, Merseyside.

Street wise

Viewers of *Coronation Street* are using the Internet to alert each other to future twists in the plot. In the past four months, 28,000 people have logged on to the unofficial World Wide Web site devoted to news and gossip on the 35-year-old soap opera.

New ballistic test 'will clear Clegg'

By Nicholas Watt
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SUPPORTERS of Lance Corporal Lee Clegg, the paratrooper who was jailed for the murder of a joyrider in West Belfast, said yesterday that they had new evidence which they hoped would quash his conviction.

Simon McKay, Clegg's legal adviser, said that ballistics tests carried out on fragments of bullets used in the shooting showed that the paratrooper did not fire an illegal shot.

Clegg, 27, was jailed for life in 1993 for the murder of Karen Reilly, who died when he and colleagues opened fire on a joyrider's car after it drove through a checkpoint in 1990. The paratrooper, who fired four shots at the car, was convicted of murder because Mr Justice Campbell ruled at Belfast Crown Court that he fired the fourth shot illegally.



Lee Clegg's supporters want conviction quashed

at the back of the car after the perceived threat had passed. Clegg was released on licence last July.

Mr McKay said the report would show that a bullet previously not linked to any soldier was Clegg's fourth shot, fired at the car's front wheel-arch.

Rethink on RAF swaps after crash

THE Royal Air Force is reviewing its exchange posting scheme after a crash last month involving a Tornado flown by an Italian pilot.

An RAF Tornado GR1 from 14 Squadron at Brüggen in Germany crashed into a wood southwest of Munster. The pilot, an Italian Air Force officer, and the RAF navigator both ejected safely.

"The scheme is under scrutiny following this crash," a senior officer said. "There have been a number of incidents which confirm our view that Italian pilots can be too temperamental when cool heads are required."

The £20 million Tornado suffered a minor instrument failure, but not at a critical moment. Concern was expressed as to why the Italian ordered immediate ejection.

The scheme involves crew from the United States and other European air forces. "The Yanks are by far the nearest to our standards but the Italians leave much to be desired," the officer said.

Gun police sue over ear damage

MORE than 100 police officers are preparing compensation claims totalling millions of pounds, alleging that they suffered hearing damage during firearms training.

Solicitors backed by the Police Federation are preparing files on the cases after a £150,000 settlement involving a former Leicestershire inspector last week.

Barry Poole, 55, was awarded the money in an out-of-court award on Wednesday. Mr Poole, of Ashby de la Zouch, was discharged from the force in 1989 because of his increasing deafness. He suffers tinnitus and cannot hear conversational speech.

The High Court was told that he was exposed to dangerous noise levels before ear protectors were introduced in 1972. The Chief Constable of Leicestershire and the county council denied liability.

Leicestershire could face further claims, as could the West Midlands, Northampton, Nottinghamshire, West Mercia and Staffordshire.

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 UNITED AIRLINES

Former minister voices concerns

Tory critics add to attack on Howard sentencing reform

By FRANCES GIBB AND RICHARD FORD

MICHAEL HOWARD'S plans for automatic life sentences for second-time rapists and violent offenders were attacked yesterday by one of his former prison ministers. Sir Peter Lloyd joined critics including Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, a former Lord Chancellor, and members of the judiciary.

The criticism came after the Home Secretary made a robust defence of his plans at what he described as a "very vigorous" private meeting with judges in Northampton on Saturday. Sir Peter, Conservative MP for Fareham, said Mr Howard's plan, to be unveiled in a White Paper in the late spring, was cumbersome and unconvincing.

"I don't think he has convinced the judiciary or myself yet that his approach with this very real point is the right one," he said. "I don't think we're talking about very large numbers and I don't think we need to go to something cumbersome like a life sentence for the second offence."

"I'm not convinced there is a need for a mandatory, automatic life sentence for the second offence."

Sir Peter, speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World This Week*, said a judicial-medical mechanism was needed, by which prisoners who were still violent could remain in jail until they were no longer seen as a risk to society.

As officials continue to prepare for the White Paper, Lord Hailsham attacked the Home Office's tendency to impose sentencing policy on the judiciary.

He said on GMTV: "One shouldn't, if one is Home Secretary, seek to impose one's views either on colleagues or on the legislature. This business about mandatory sentences must be held in very grave suspicion."

Under the proposals, minimum sentences will be imposed on persistent burglars and drug dealers, and automatic life sentences for second-time rapists and other violent offenders. Mr Howard signalled a substantial reduction in the sentences imposed by courts when he met about 30 judges at the private meeting of the Criminal Justice Consultative Council on Saturday.

He said he would expect judges to take account of his plan for "honesty" in sentencing, in which the sentence imposed by the court would be served in full. "I want the offender standing in the dock to know the full weight of the sentence. I do not want him saying to himself, 'I know he said three years, but it only means 18 months'."

This would need guidance from the Lord Chief Justice pointing out that prisoners would now serve their full jail terms, he said. "My main concern is to say to the man in the dock: 'What you hear is what you serve'."

He rejected a warning from Lord Justice Rose, the Court of Appeal judge chairing the meeting, that rapists would commit murder if they knew they were going to be jailed for life anyway. "Taken to its logical conclusion, this line of argument suggests that there

should not even be a life sentence available, even on a discretionary basis, for murder," he said.

But Mr Howard made clear that automatic life sentences would, like discretionary life sentences, have the release date decided by the Parole Board and not the Home Secretary. The courts would fix the "tariff" to be served for retribution and deterrence. Once that had been served, the Parole Board would decide when a prisoner should be released.

The aim, he said, was to ensure that "in these particularly serious and unpredictable cases, we do not release prisoners who are a continuing threat to the public."

He added: "At present, double rapists or those who committed two violent offences have to be released without any assessment of risk, even if it is known that they continue to pose a risk."

His proposal for minimum sentences for drug dealers and persistent burglars provoked the most criticism at the meeting. Mr Howard did not spell out the number of previous convictions which would trigger a minimum sentence or the length of the jail term.

He attempted to calm anger by telling the meeting that he had always intended to provide for exceptions.

Paul Cavadin, chairman of the Penal Affairs Consortium, an alliance of 30 groups in the penal system, doubted if judges would reduce sentence lengths and lay themselves open to claims of "going soft".

Council tells staff to drop 14-week leave or be sacked

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

STAFF employed by a Labour council will receive redundancy notices today with a warning that they can have their jobs back only if they agree to new contracts, cutting their annual holidays by up to nine weeks.

Long-serving staff at Camden are entitled to up to 14 weeks' paid leave. Another London Labour council is in a no-redundancy policy.

Camden's action comes after two years of fruitless attempts to negotiate new contracts cutting leave, for 3,200 of its 6,000 town hall staff. They have been entitled to 50 days a year dependency leave to look after sick, close relatives. Given a five-day working week, this can amount to ten weeks a year in

addition to the four-week allowance for which every staff member qualifies.

Since 1993 the council has been preparing to offer a contract granting only five days leave a year on dependency grounds, but staff employed before then still benefit from the old terms.

The new contract also halves the amount of time off allowed to staff members working flexitime from two days to one day each four weeks. New recruits will qualify for the council's 40-week maternity leave only after they have been employed for a year.

Among those who will receive a redundancy notice are many of the 33 staff of the council's homeless unit, who

reported for work last week after sharing a £10 million win in the National Lottery.

Union, the staff union, is to call meetings this week to consider industrial action in protest at the new contracts. About 2,400 staff members have signed them but the remaining 3,200 have so far refused. Hackney councillors have voted to end a no-redundancy policy which has cost £2 million a year.

From April, staff who are no longer wanted by their department will have six months to find a permanent post elsewhere on the council or face redundancy. The council plans savings of another £13 million which will mean compulsory redundancies for up to 100 people.



Yesterday's villains: from left, the gang bosses Charles Richardson, Jack 'Spot' Comer and his rival Billy Hill

Crime families are pushed out by new breed of drug gangster

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A NEW type of sophisticated young gangster is taking over Britain's underworld and ousting the traditional criminal families.

Research compiled for chief constables identified 300 leading criminals who stay in the background as "fixers" and organisers, hiding behind legitimate businesses and arranging the links for big drug consignments or distributing expensive stolen cars.

Traditional family gangs still exist in cities such as London, Manchester and Newcastle upon Tyne, but their influence is diminishing. Police found there were no modern versions of the Krays or the Richardsons who carved up much of London in the 1960s, and hierarchical gangs such as the Thompsons, who ran crime in Glasgow over several generations, were declining.

Colin Phillips, the Assistant Chief Constable heading CID in Greater Manchester and the leader of the research team, said: "The criminals network as a businessmen. We are not saying people don't follow their fathers into crime, but now they are not family hierarchies. Drugs are the currency of the criminals."

"In the 1950s and 60s it was vice, prostitution and pornography. In the 1980s it was car crime, then fraud. Now it is drugs."

Drug investigations take up 40 per cent of detective work in some forces. According to detectives, the typical gang leader is in his late 20s or 30s. "They are leaders because, when push comes to shove, they will walk into a pub and shoot someone," a London officer said. "If someone has them over, they take revenge. If you have money off them, there will be retribution."

The gang leaders have always left school early and have convictions that give them status with other criminals, who turn to them for help. Sometimes they are the sons of minor criminals.

The gangs usually number 15 or 20 core members who have grown up together. Violence

between the gangs is far less than expected. It will be used to defend territory in "hot wars", but there is so much criminal business available that the gangs do not need to compete.

Times have changed since the early part of this century when gangs grew among the new immigrant communities in London, Liverpool and Glasgow. Razor gangs ran bookmaking on racetracks across the country, leading to fearsome battles between rivals.

In 1921 the Birmingham and Leeds mobs turned on the "Italians", a gang led by the Sabini family, on the last day of the Derby meeting. There was a brief battle after which 23 people were convicted.

In the postwar era, gangs turned to vice, clubs and gambling, with the likes of Billy Hill and Jack "Spot" Comer fighting for control of underworld business. The Krays and Charles Richardson also based their empires on clubs, fraud and intimidation.

The Krays adopted a high

profile, cultivating society contacts and trying without a great deal of success to move into the West End of London. After police broke the gangs of the 1960s, their successors shunned publicity.

As a more liberal atmosphere allowed legal competitors into the vice industry, organised criminals turned first to armed robbery and then to drugs, building contacts in Spain, South America and North Africa.

They move quickly with drug trends. In the 1990s they have invested in raves and the supply of synthetic drugs from the Continent. Like the razor gangs of the 1920s they still protect their territory, but now they use sawn-off shotguns and hired hitmen.

Networking between gangs and operations across police boundaries present the greatest problems for a law-enforcement system based on regional forces, the report compiled for the chief constables says. Only 21 of the 55 forces have computer systems which allow them to carry out

simple analysis to uncover the size of cross-border crime.

Chief constables are already in debate with the Home Office about the creation of a national CID unit. The National Criminal Intelligence Service is also expected to widen its work at the top end of the criminal scale.

Police are also being urged to build detailed and constantly updated assessments on organised crime, modelled on those used against the IRA. The assessments would be part of an intelligence package that would include long-term forecasts of how social and economic trends might influence crime.

Police are already talking about creating "intelligence cells" similar to those used in the armed services, to update senior officers and detectives.

The research ordered by the chief constables shows that forces could work together more to combat gangs and criminals who travel widely to commit crime. In one force 30 per cent of burglaries were committed by criminals from other areas.

Labour may 'claw back' child benefit from rich

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR is considering taxing child benefits for the richest families in an attempt to curb rising welfare costs.

Chris Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, said yesterday: "I want to look at the 'Duchess of Westminster' problem, where people who are right up at the top end of the income scale can still walk down the road and into a post office and draw child benefit."

He added: "We are looking at options to see if right up at the top end of the scale there might be some way to claw back some of the money that goes to people who actually don't need it."

Mr Smith, who recently visited Singapore to study its system of social security, is determined that Labour would tackle the problem of the £90 billion-a-year benefits bill. He emphasised that "the broad mass of people" did rely on child benefit. "I'm absolutely committed to the universal



Smith: child benefit to remain universal

payment of child benefit," he said. "It's an essential part of child support in this country and I want to see it continue as universal payment."

In an interview on GMTV's Sunday programme, Mr Smith said that Labour was examining a "benefit-to-work" strategy which would give people "a hand up" rather than just a hand-out. "If we can get people off unemployment, out of dependency, back into work, with opportunities, instead of having obstacles put in their way, then I think we can begin to see some really radical changes in the nature of the system."

But he cast doubt on Labour adopting a Singaporean-style pension scheme, where people have to put 20 per cent of their income into compulsory savings schemes. Mr Smith said that instead of such a scheme, "which no one in Britain could afford", he wanted to create a new, funded, secure pension scheme for people who did not have decent occupational or personal pensions.

HOW POLICE SEE BRITAIN'S GANG THREAT

RUSSIAN MAFIA Apart from one case there is no evidence in the United Kingdom. There is some evidence of organised crime by Russian nationals of the London financial markets and there is suspicion that they are using it to launder money.

MAFIA Believed to be present within the resident Italian population and evidence was found of some contact with organised crime groups. They are involved in extortion, mostly of Italian companies, and fraud, particularly the falsification of bank cheques. There is a little evidence of some trafficking using British arms dealers to import arms. Also involved in money laundering.

NIGERIAN West African criminal groups, mainly Nigerian, are involved mainly in drug trafficking and loan, generally benefit from using false and repeated claims.

YARDES Seen generally as a London problem with a main interest in drugs and not seen as a great threat outside their communities.

THRADES Four main Thai criminal groups within the Chinese population. They engage in a wide range of criminal activity, mostly against their own community, mostly extortion.

BRITISH GANGS Mainly local criminal networks exploiting local opportunities based in geographical boundaries and generally exploiting local money-lending opportunities. Drugs have a dominant role. Generally white males and generally home-grown.



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£50,000 - £99,999	4.750%	4.85%	3.56%
£25,000 - £49,999	4.375%	4.46%	3.28%
£10,000 - £24,999	4.000%	4.07%	3.00%
£2,000 - £9,999	3.125%	3.17%	2.34%
Premium Reserve			
Instant Access			
£50,000 +	4.000%	4.06%	3.00%
£25,000 - £49,999	3.625%	3.67%	2.72%
£10,000 - £24,999	3.250%	3.29%	2.44%
£2,000 - £9,999	3.000%	3.03%	2.25%
First Reserve			
Instant Access			
£1,000 +	2.875%	2.91%	2.16%
£500 - £999	2.625%	2.65%	1.97%
£250 - £499	1.900%	1.51%	1.13%
£100 - £249	1.375%	1.38%	1.03%
£0 - £99	1.250%	1.26%	0.94%

The rates for all other personal savings accounts remain unchanged.

Where appropriate, Basic Rate Tax will be deducted from interest credited or paid (which may be reduced by resident non-taxpayers). Otherwise (for example, subject to the required registration form), interest will be paid gross.

The Gross Rate is the rate paid before deducting income tax.

The Gross Compounded Annual Rate (CAR) is the rate where gross interest payments are reinvested in the account during the year.

The Net Rate is the rate paid after deducting income tax at the Basic Rate, currently 23%.

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Primitives who failed to have last word

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

NEANDERTHAL man was an evolutionary dead-end, lacking abstract thought or the ability to categorise, a British expert believes.

The rise and fall of Neanderthal man has long been a puzzle because fossils show that his brain was at least as large as those of modern humans. He was the product of two million years of evolution but disappeared, leaving hardly a trace. He produced no ornaments, no cave paintings and had no network of kinship or religion.

Dr Paul Mellars, Reader in Archaeology at Cambridge University, says in a new book that the reason lies in language. The ability to describe things accurately enables categories to be created: "a name goes with a mental image". The forms of Neanderthal tools vary continuously, while the tools of *Homo sapiens* are much more clearly divided into categories.

"One fascinating possibility is that modern humans had fully complex language, and Neanderthals had only a proto-language. Modern humans were much better at planning, which requires storing and passing on information. You can't do that without language."

Reith lecturer, page 13

Protesters dig deep to thwart bypass

By ADRIAN LEE

THE battle lines were drawn this weekend for the final assault on tree dwellers whose illegal homes block the route of the Newbury bypass.

As protesters replenished food and water in 60 tree houses, the Under Sheriff of Berkshire, Nick Blandy, whose ancestors were responsible for hanging criminals in the county, was drawing up his siege plans for four camps.

Legal action last week cleared the way for Mr Blandy and his bailiffs, some skilled mountaineers, to move the battle from the ground to the trees. Hydraulic cherry pickers will be used to pull activists from the elaborate rope walkways which link the tree houses in an operation that Mr Blandy, a veteran of protests at the Greenham Common air base, predicted could last several weeks.

There are now thought to be 20 tree camps in addition to the 1500 tunnel in which the campaigners have said they will seek refuge when the evictions start. After four weeks of protest there have been 300 arrests and Mr Blandy, 47, whose relatives have held the post of Under Sheriff since it was created in 1887, said: "I hope none of the protesters falls out of a tree but if they do it will be because they have placed themselves in danger."

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By ADRIAN LEE

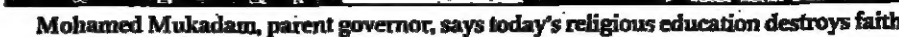
If the diocesan chancellor ratifies the approval, opponents still plan an appeal to a church court. The rector has been supported by his church council, but opposed by the parish council. Richard Leighton, its chairman, said: "I would be horrified if the pews were sold. I hope they will be put in storage. These charismatic worshippers may be gone in five years."

By PETER FOSTER

Mohamed Mukadam, a parent governor at the school, said on BBC Radio 4's *Sunday* programme yesterday: "When you understand the multi-faith approach you realise that it is actually designed to destroy all faiths because it

A trained Muslim teacher has been appointed to run the Islamic course, which will be attended by more than 500 children. Multifaith classes will still be available for children whose parents do not

He said: "What we should be respecting is the right of other people to have their own faith", adding that the multi-faith approach was "an attack



But the Professional Council for Religious Education said that parents were misunderstanding the purpose of RE lessons. Lat Blaylock, the council's executive officer,

I don't think this kind of separate development is really in the interests of the children. In the primary age group the learning is from one or two

withdrew their children from schools in West Yorkshire last month. He argued against withdrawing children in favour of the system adopted in Birmingham of actively teaching Islam to Muslim children.

By A STAFF REPORTER

The Rev Richard Kirker, secretary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, which campaigns for homosexuals to be ordained, declined yesterday to say which Church of England bishops had signed the advertisement. It is thought not specifically to call for the ban on practising homosexual clergy to be lifted. Mr Kirker said: "We are committed to trying to make the Church do what it should do instinctively - to make clear that all people are welcome."

Mr. Kirker said thousands of gay and lesbian members of the clergy were not celibate, because they were in a stable relationship or wanted to be in such a relationship. "Homosexual clergy are victimised by being made to pretend they are not in a relationship. That's the price they have to pay if they wish to receive support from their employers."

Mr Shegog said the House of Bishops had called for a debate on the issue in 1991 while making clear that active homosexual practice among the clergy was unacceptable. "That debate has been going on since then, so all these posters and the clergy who have signed are saying is that they want to encourage debate."

Adverts in the *Catholic Herald* for new recruits

The classified section of the *Catholic Herald* is full of small ads from orders exhorting volunteers to devote themselves to a spiritual way of life. A spokesman for the newspaper said: "Convents and monasteries have for a long time used the classified section to attract new recruits, but there have been more and more of late, often emphasising a New Age rejection of

Since 1985, more than 2,500 sisters have been lost from

Britain's 200 orders and, of the 8,000 remaining, almost half are more than 70 years old. Nuns between 30 and 50 years old account for only 10 per cent of the total, according to figures from the Catholic Media Office. Kieran Conry, of the Media Office, said:

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

Mrs Roddick, a former teacher, wants her courses to be as environmentally friendly as the mango body butter and raspberry ripple bath bubbles on sale in her high-street stores. Lectures at her New Academy of Business will build on the lessons learnt in turning The Body Shop from a small boutique in Brighton into a global empire with 1,200 outlets.

Courses will teach regard for human rights, spirituality in business life and "socially responsible investment and finance". Ms Roddick said: "Business education must contain the language and notion of social justice, human rights, community economics and the development of the human spirit."

Mrs Roddick has spent £250,000 preparing a series of short courses for those already working in industry. The next stage is to develop a masters degree awarded by an existing university and the long-term plan is for full undergraduate courses.

Dr David Wheeler, head of ethical audit at The Body Shop and an authority on waste reduction and the reuse of materials, is helping to set up courses. Gill Coleman, who has spent four years as director of studies for the MBA in international business at Bristol University, is the academy's course director.

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Official history lifts lid on undercover missions that prepared the ground for D-Day

How secret fishing fleet carried spies to occupied France

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE full story of how clandestine flotillas were used to ferry secret agents in and out of France and North Africa during the early years of the Second World War has been disclosed after an unprecedented decision to open the archives of the Secret Intelligence Service and the Special Operations Executive.

Sir Brooks Richards, an official historian who served with the SOE in the war and was security co-ordinator in Northern Ireland in the early 1980s, was allowed to see the files of "O" section of the SIS, which was involved in the covert operations that helped to provide intelligence during the years leading up to the D-Day landings.

The fall of France in June 1940 had left the coastline of Western Europe in hostile hands. It was as great a strategic threat to Britain as any since the Spanish Armada. The secret services were



Richards: given unique access to secret files

under enormous pressure to gather intelligence, particularly on any attempt by the Germans to mount an invasion. The SIS man charged with establishing links with agents in occupied France was Commander Frank Slocum, known as "O".

Much has been written about the covert air opera-

tions, but Sir Brooks says that his book, *Secret Flotillas*, is the first to tell of the naval crews who carried agents to France. He had unique access to closed official intelligence files for the book, which is published by HMSO in association with the Cabinet Office.

In 1940, the SIS had no available assets in France because of a gentleman's agreement with the French *Service de Renseignements* not to conduct espionage. Slocum had to start from scratch, recruiting, training and briefing agents. The SIS sought help from intelligence officers working with the Vichy Government and also from the intelligence service of the exiled Polish Government, whose officers ran daring operations for SIS from Gibraltar to Morocco.

Slocum set up two sections to obtain intelligence in France, one under Commander Wilfred Dunderdale, who had been head of the SIS's Paris station until the fall of France, and Commander Kenneth Cohen. Between June and October 1940 agents were landed in The Netherlands, Belgium and the north coast of France from whatever surface craft were available. The first French operation recorded by Slocum, successfully landed an agent near Brest on the night of June 20, 1940.

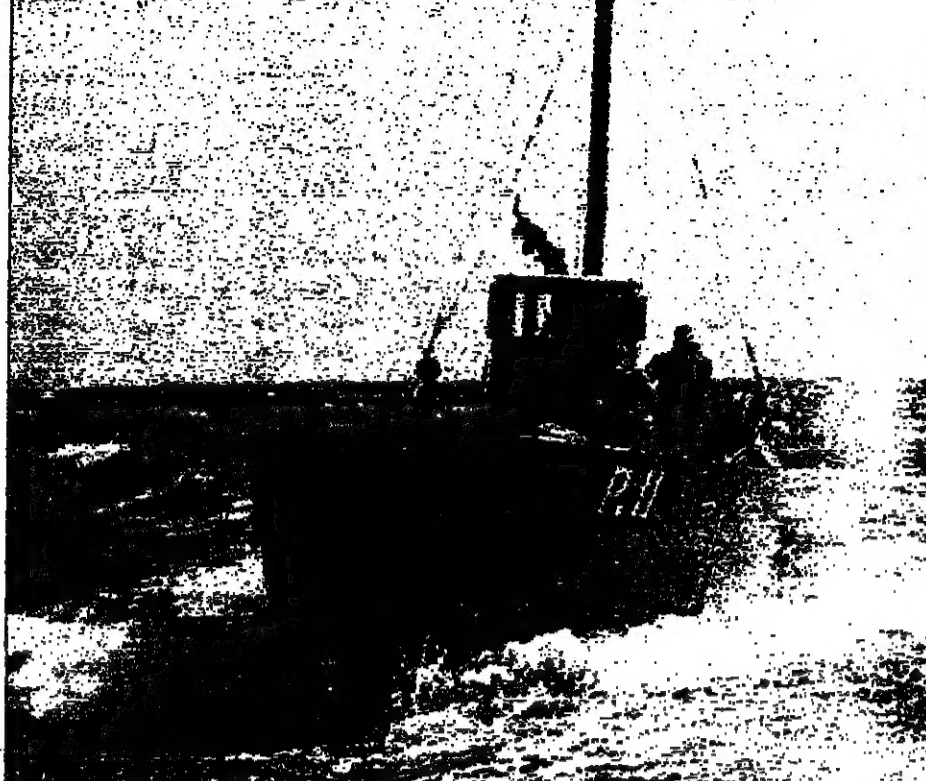
Dunderdale's section ran operations in Brittany using Breton fishing vessels. His operational base was in Mylor Creek, near Falmouth, Cornwall. The crews were Free French naval volunteers on secondment to the SIS.

Sir Brooks, who at one point ran guns to Corsica by submarine, said that one remarkable agent was a Frenchman called Daniel Lomench, who was only 19 when first recruited. He had escaped from France and volunteered to go back as an SIS agent.

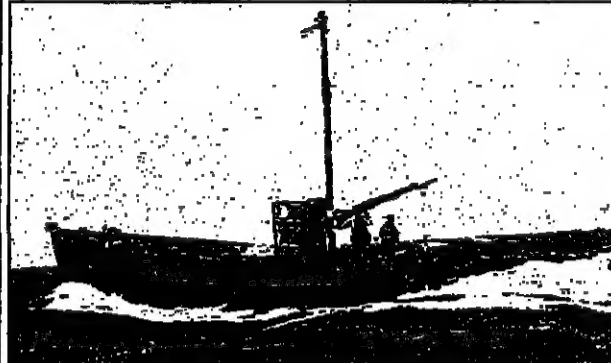
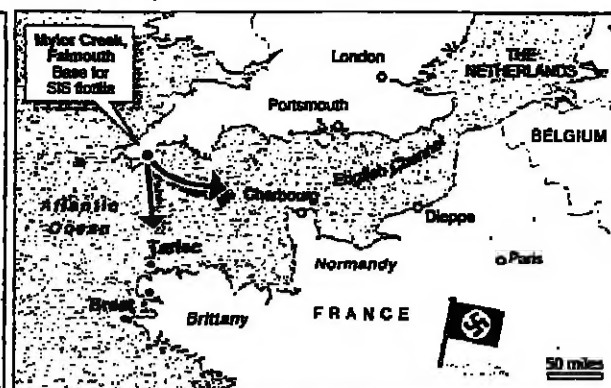
Early in November 1940 he landed on a beach in Brittany with another agent from a trawler. It returned a month later but developed engine trouble and, while it was being repaired at a French port, the four crew went off drinking. When they returned, the boat had blown away.

Sir Brooks said: "It was an awkward situation, four sailors without a boat... and two spies stranded with their intelligence becoming stale." Lomench eventually returned in another boat.

The missing boat was reported to the French authori-



The Ar-Morscou, left, and L'Angèle-Rouge ran missions to Brittany from their base near Falmouth. The flotillas were set up by Commander Frank Slocum, centre left, and crewed largely by Free French volunteers such as Daniel Lomench, who was recruited at the age of 19



ties and was recovered, but German military customs learnt of it and found British provisions on board. Berlin was informed that this was the first known case of a fishing boat being used to convey people from England.

In 1942 Slocum got permission for a new 55ft boat to be built with 500-horsepower engines, giving a speed of up to 20 knots. It was named L'Angèle-Rouge, after Slocum's auburn-haired secretary, Miss Sykes-Wright. Another was the salvaged Ar-Morscou, which Lomench had found half-submerged in Newlyn harbour.

The "strikingly handsome" Lomench commanded the L'Angèle-Rouge on its first three operations, before transferring to submarines. He was awarded the DSO in October 1942.

Later, when L'Angèle-Rouge was commanded by Lomench's successor, Lieutenant J.J. Allen, it ran into the middle of a German convoy while returning to England with two agents and secret mail. As the German warships steamed by, the SIS men could hear the sound of a gramophone playing and saw German officers peering at them through binoculars. But the convoy passed on.

Another legendary wartime SIS figure was David Birkin,

father of the actress Jane Birkin. He joined Slocum's section after Naval Signal School and took part in numerous clandestine trips to France.

Sir Brooks said Birkin found "the Scarlet Pimpernel" character of the work fascinating, although he was not a natural sailor. Like Nelson, he never overcame seasickness and always had to work with a bucket and towel at hand. As navigator on 33 missions, he carried in his jacket pockets his pipe, enough tobacco for two days, his box of survival

rations, a bottle of morphine tablets and a Luger.

Until silence became a necessity as they approached their rendezvous point, their progress across the Channel would normally be accompanied by the strains of the ship's radio, usually playing Vera Lynn. In one mission, Birkin was sent to pick up seven airmen from the island of Tancet, near Brest. They had made their way past German patrols by disguising themselves as seaweed gatherers and shell collectors.

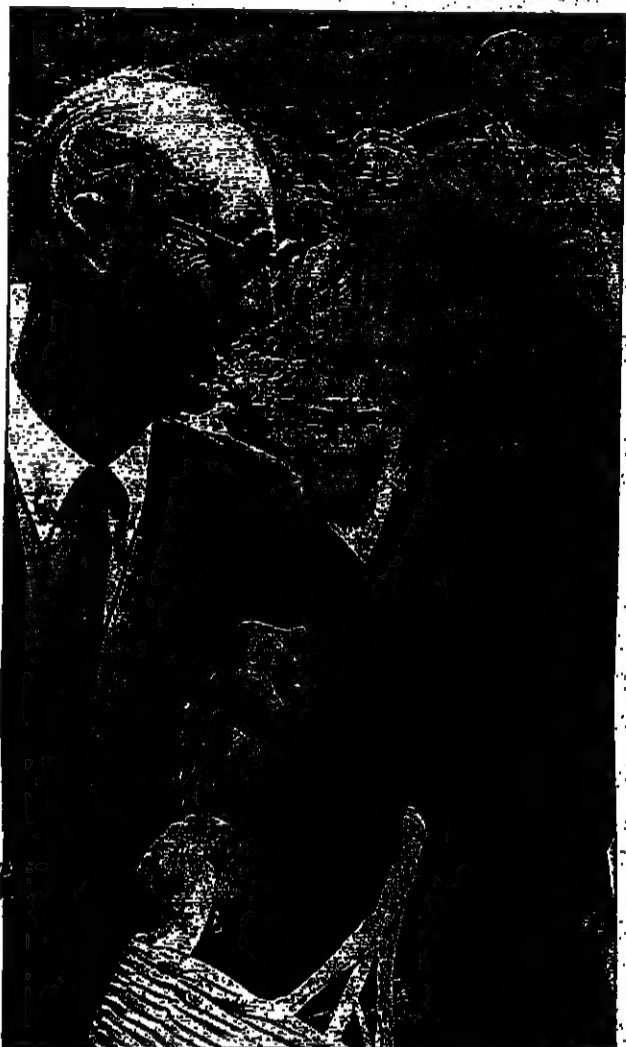
Slocum's counterpart at the

SOE was Leslie Humphreys,

who was also told to organise a section to run agents in France. In one rendezvous to pick up intelligence material, an agent called Gerry Holdsworth took a boat to the French coast and met a sailing vessel whose two-man crew handed him a package of clandestine mail. On their return to England, they were spotted by a customs officer who demanded to see the contents of the bag. Holdsworth refused but later had to get a licence from the customs service, granting him

immunity from inspection for the rest of the war.

In the case of another SOE mission, which took place on the night of February 25, 1944, no detailed report has been preserved, except the name of one of two passengers being dropped off at a headland, called Beg-an-Fry. It was a young François Mitterrand, future President of France. The SOE had offered to return him to France after De Gaulle refused to do so, possibly because of Mitterrand's known connections with the Vichy Government.



SIS man David Birkin, with his daughter Jane

THE TIMES DILLONS LECTURE

Richard Leakey and the Sixth Extinction

THE FIVE mass extinctions of species on the planet were all natural disasters. Speaking at a Times/Dillons lecture on Monday, February 12, chaired by Richard Dawkins, Richard Leakey, the Kenyan politician and renowned palaeoanthropologist and conservationist, will warn us that we are heading for a sixth.

Our capacity to exploit the world's resources beyond the point of natural renewal is leading us to the verge of a man-made catastrophe, he says. *Homo sapiens* could destroy entire species and trigger the sixth extinction.

The lecture marks the publication of Dr Leakey's new book (with Roger Lewin), *The Sixth Extinction: Biodiversity and Its Survival* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18.99), and will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1E, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 (£7.50 concessions), which includes £3 off the price of Dr Leakey's book, are available by phoning 0171-915 6613, by faxing the coupon below on 0171-580 7680, or by sending the coupon with your remittance to: Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ, where tickets can also be purchased.

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Balkan havoc lets slip the mice of war



WARS have been endemic in the Balkans for centuries. Where there is war there is squalor, and where there is squalor there are rats and mice. It is therefore not surprising that the Balkans also have an endemic kidney disease that is spread by rodents. From time to time this causes epidemics and whenever an army fights over countryside there is an outbreak.

In Bosnia, the first British soldier has fallen victim to Balkan nephropathy, one of the group of diseases, the Hanta virus, spread by eating mouse or rat droppings, or food contaminated by rodents' urine. The soldier has made a good recovery.

The virus is named after a Korean river, and was described as the cause of the local variety of the disease — Korean Haemorrhagic Fever — long after that war ended and the armies returned to their home bases.

In Korea the disease, which causes pain and tenderness over the renal angle and poor kidney function, sometimes resulting in complete renal failure, is particularly lethal, with a 20 per cent mortality rate. The Hanta viruses also cause spontaneous bleeding in organs other than the kidney, the skin and sometimes the brain and spinal cord, so that patients develop stroke-type symptoms. In wars, or in

large-scale army manoeuvres, the rats and mice are as much on the move as the armies. They are disturbed from their normal habitats and, by taking advantage of a sudden increase in food available, breed rapidly.

The risk to soldiers depends on the war zone. If they were not careful to keep the mouse droppings out of the soup in Korea, the death rate was as high as 20 per cent, whereas the variety of the virus which would be found by any of our special forces exercising in northern Europe causes a comparatively benign strain which has a death rate of only 1 per cent.

In terms of its lethal effect, the Balkans species is probably midway between the Far East version and the Scandinavian.

As there has been no war on American soil since the Civil War, the virulence of the local virus has not been thoroughly tested, but it is interesting that, although the Americans are great at living an out-of-doors life, the type of Hanta virus found in American rats and mice has never been known to affect people. The American army in Germany, however, suffered a serious outbreak after exercises in 1990.

DR THOMAS
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Hotels

Families reunited as no-go controls vanish in Sarajevo

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

THE Bosnian Government yesterday reasserted its authority over all of Sarajevo after more than three years of war had divided the city into separate camps.

Hundreds of Sarajevans from both sides trickled across the former front line into neighbourhoods they had not been permitted to see since April 1992 when the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina began. As they embraced family members and friends who had been on the other side of the line, they were also making a statement. Sarajevo, once divided by checkpoints, sniping and shelling, was again united under the authority of the central Government.

According to the terms of the Dayton peace agreement, the Bosnian Serb militia which controlled five suburbs around the capital had to vacate the areas by midnight on Saturday. Nato said the deadline was met without incident. Although the Serb

militia has moved out of the suburbs, Bosnian Serb police and other civil authorities will remain in the areas for another 45 days.

The decision to permit Serb authorities to stay was brokered at the 11th hour by Carl Bildt, the former Swedish Prime Minister in charge of implementing the civilian aspects of the Dayton plan. Mr Bildt was hoping to prevent panic among Serbs in those areas who fear for their safety when government authorities take over. About 20 per cent of the Serb population has left the areas that are due to be handed back to the Bosnian Government.

The Bosnian army, police and civilian authorities are to take full control of the areas on March 19, although for the Nato peace implementation force, will remain in the areas until December.

"This is the best day I have had in four years," said Danko, a middle-aged woman

who was reunited with her husband yesterday. Danko, a Serb from Sarajevo, had been staying at the family's country house in Ilidza when Serb forces took the suburb. Her husband, a doctor, remained in the capital.

Although they were only a few miles away from each other, the couple were unable to see each other for nearly four years. Three times they were able to speak through ham radios and once on the telephone. Danko said that yesterday she took sedatives and walked to Sarajevo across the former front line to find her husband. "We have both been crying all day," she said with a big grin.

Alternating between laughter and tears, Danko said it was terrible to see the destruction of Sarajevo. "Our apartment was just strewn with bullet holes and a lot of our paintings were destroyed," she said. Still, Danko said that she would be moving back to the capital permanently in the next few days.

Civilians have been permitted to cross front lines since the Dayton agreement took effect in December, but residents on both sides were wary of moving into areas still under the control of their enemies. Sarajevans rarely ventured into Serb-held suburbs, but now they are doing so with increasing regularity.

"I feel like I was born again," said Slavo, a 71-year-old Serb residing in Sarajevo who visited his grandson in Serb-held Ilidza yesterday for the first time since 1992. "It is great. I just got on the tram and went to Ilidza. Nobody stopped me. Only two soldiers stepped in to say good day. Yesterday they were checking ID cards, today they were not. It is all one city now."

Fears for economy as Yeltsin caves in

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

HUNDREDS of thousands of striking Russian miners returned to work at the weekend after Kremlin assurances that back wages would be paid and new subsidies spent on the coal industry.

After a well-organised walkout brought about 75 per cent of Russian coal production to a halt, most of the more than half a million striking miners returned to their pits on Saturday.

"Everything that I promised at the meeting with the leadership of the trade union of coal industry workers is being carried out," said Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, at the weekend after details of the huge cash handout were disclosed.

The union said the Government has agreed to make good £85 million in back pay, and provide £15 billion in industry funding this year. Vitali Budko, the union's leader, said the Kremlin had until March 1 to start meeting its commitment — or the miners would strike again.

A simultaneous strike by Ukraine's miners over unpaid wages goes on with stoppages and disruptions reported yesterday at about 40 per cent of its mines.

Although the Russian deal has bought the Kremlin a breathing space, the agreement may have set a dangerous precedent politically and economically. The Government's surrender after only 48 hours provided further evidence that, as part of his re-election campaign before the June polls, President Yeltsin plans to lavish subsidies and pay rises on industries under the miners, whose strike five years ago against the

В КАССЕ
ДЕНЕГ
НЕТ!



An unpaid miner turns away from the closed pay office at Prokopyevsk pit. Cash has been promised, but the union says it will strike again if the deal collapses

Soviet authorities helped to bring the President to power, have set a precedent other disgruntled workers may copy.

The spring spending spree may help to shore up the Russian leader's sagging popularity, but also risks destabilising the economy by pushing up inflation, undermining the rouble and threatening a key £6 billion

International Monetary Fund loan. IMF and Russian negotiators failed to agree the loan last week and Yevgeni Yasin, the Economy Minister, said yesterday that he was concerned about conditions the IMF might set.

Despite the blith, the deal is expected to be sealed later this month during the planned Moscow visit by Michel Cam-

dessus, the IMF managing director, who helped to clinch last year's generous loan.

Whatever doubts may be growing about Mr Yeltsin's commitment to reforming Russia's economy, nobody in the West wants to cut him off from financial help as he prepares his election campaign against a strong Communist challenge.

'Dynasty' star in war over her words

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

JOAN COLLINS, the actress, will appear in a stormy real-life drama due to start unfolding today before a New York jury.

The star of the hit television series *Dynasty* is locked in a legal battle with Random House, the publisher, in a failed \$4 million (£2.6 million) book deal. Random House claims Miss Collins broke her contract with its British and American publishers by turning in unusable manuscripts for two novels for which she had been paid an advance of \$1.3 million. Miss Collins, 62, responds that she put her acting career on hold to write *A Ruling Passion* and *Hell Hath No Fury* and insists the books are of publishable quality.

Random House is seeking the return of its advance, while the star is suing the publisher for the rest of her \$4 million. Miss Collins's two-book deal was negotiated by the late Hollywood super-agent, Irving "Swifty" Lazar, with Joni Evans, when she was an editor at Random House, which is now headed by Harold Evans, no relation to the former editor of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

The British actress, who played Alexis Carrington in *Dynasty*, already has three bestsellers to her name — *Prime Time*, *Past Imperfect*, *An Autobiography* and *Too Damn Famous*. Her sister Jackie is the queen of potboiler romances, such as *Hollywood Wives*.

Miss Collins believes she fell victim to in-house politics at Random House, as it tried to shut down the unprofitable *Turtle Bay* imprint created for books edited by Ms Evans. Ironically, Miss Collins's latest screen role is as an actor's agent in Kenneth Branagh's new film, *In the Bleak Midwinter*.

Serb police can stay

Sarajevo: Bosnian Serb police will be allowed to stay in former Serb-held suburbs of Sarajevo for 45 days, although those areas were transferred to Bosnian government control yesterday, international mediators said (Stacy Sullivan writes).

Under the terms of the Dayton peace agreement, the separatist Bosnian Serbs had to withdraw all military forces from five suburbs around the Bosnian capital by midnight on Saturday. However, Carl Bildt, the international mediator, who is aiming to prevent a mass exodus of Serbs, negotiated an agreement to allow the Serb police to stay. Serbs in those areas say

they fear retributions by the Bosnian Government. Residents have been fleeing Serb suburbs with their belongings for weeks.

Mr Bildt's decision angered the Bosnian Government. President Izetbegovic protested about the decision to Warren Christopher, the visiting US Secretary of State, accusing Mr Bildt of misinterpreting the Dayton agreement. Hasan Muratovic, Bosnia's new Prime Minister, demanded that the decision be revoked within seven days.

However, international mediators said the Bosnians reluctantly agreed to the plan after an emergency meeting with Nato officers.

Portillo attacks 'slow boat' taunt

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN came under fresh criticism yesterday for slowing down the drive towards a single currency and for trying to deter European partners from monetary union.

British ministers reacted strongly to demands from Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, that "the slowest boat must not determine the speed of the fleet", and disagreements intensified over the likely starting date of the single currency as Britain warned Germany that Euro-scepticism had to be acknowledged in the campaign for monetary union.

Michael Portillo, Defence Secretary, fought back against greater European integration by defending the importance of the "nation state" and dismissing claims that Britain was the "slowest boat" referred to by Herr Kohl.

However, pressure increased on Britain to stop its high-profile campaign to win the support of fellow European partners in opposing monetary union. Hans van den Broek, a European Commissioner for External Affairs, criticised the tactics used by British ministers since John Major secured an opt-out dur-

ing the Maastricht treaty negotiations. "It is your free choice, but do not use that margin of manoeuvre, which you have, to sink the whole project or wish the whole project to sink."

Senior European politicians have voiced concern at the increasingly forceful campaign waged by British ministers to delay a single currency. Karl Lamers, Herr Kohl's senior foreign policy adviser, was reported yesterday to have described Britain's stance over the single currency as irresponsible.

Mr Portillo, who has led

Conservative opposition to a single currency, rejected Herr Kohl's suggestion that Britain was "the slowest boat" in Europe, and would slow other countries down.

He firmly resisted plans to increase European integration, saying: "I believe the nation state still plays a very important part, that people identify with nation states. But nation states and nationalism are not the same thing. And what we're looking for is the way in which nations can collaborate together more and more," he told Sky TV.

However, he accepted Herr Kohl's comment that, through closer co-operation, countries were less likely to go to war, but claimed that the German leader was referring to the period surrounding the Second World War rather than today. "Of course, everybody wants to go back to the sort of terrible nationalism that was unleashed in the 1930s and 1940s," he said. But Mr Portillo emphasised there were other global threats to peace outside Europe. Earlier, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, defending the Government's resistance to a significant expansion of European Union powers, said the EU would cease to exist unless all its member states could be accommodated. His remarks were enthusiastically welcomed by Tory Euro-sceptics, who said it was a welcome echo of Baroness Thatcher's "no nonsense" tone over Europe.

Leading article, page 17
Single market at risk, page 40

Britain savages nervous Germans

BY GEORGE BROCK

HELMUT KOHL and other senior German politicians allege that Britain, by talking down the chances of a European single currency or progress towards a united Europe, threatens the foundations of the continent's peace in the next century.

However, their anger is less a dire prediction and more a symptom of the panic in the German establishment as it realises the rest of Europe is suffering from federalism fatigue.

Nowhere was the new British aggression and German hesitation more evident than in Munich last Friday during a European foreign and defence policies discussion led by the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, and his German counterpart, Klaus Kinkel.

British ministers no longer seem worried about saying the unsayable. Mr Rifkind was accompanied to Munich by Nicholas Soames, the junior Defence Minister, who told German listeners their ideas for a European army run by the EU did not make military sense.

German arguments for centralising EU foreign policy sound like flimsy mantras repeated out of habit rather than conviction, and the idea that a Maastricht II treaty should make the leap towards a federal Europe is disappearing under worries about rising unemployment.

Russian issues warning over Nato expansion

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN AND ANATOLE KALETSKY IN DAVOS

GERMANY and the United States tried unsuccessfully at the weekend to ease Russian fears about Nato enlarging eastwards. However, they succeeded only in triggering concern in Central Europe about the West's true intentions.

At the same time, Gennadi Zyuganov, the Russian Communist Party chairman who looks likely to be the leading challenger to Boris Yeltsin in the June presidential election, gave a warning that any expansion by Nato into Central Europe would disrupt the balance of power and could jeopardise ratification of the Start 2 nuclear disarmament treaty.

Mr Zyuganov, speaking at a press conference yesterday at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, attempted to reassure Western Governments about his party's geopolitical intentions.

He recognised the United States as the "clear leader" in the new global structure, but insisted that Russia could not simply be "written off" as a world power.

Expanding Nato to embrace Poland and other Central European states would be a sign that the West wanted to recreate the Cold War bipolar structure. That would have "disastrous consequences for world security and the whole future of humanity," as Russia would have to reconsider its position on both conventional and nuclear disarmament, Mr Zyuganov said.

Helmut Kohl, the German

Chancellor, addressing senior politicians and defence experts at the annual Wehrkunde security conference in Munich, said the West had to address Moscow's anxiety about opening up the alliance to the Poles, Czechs and Hungarians. "I have the impression that the West does not think enough about the psy-

consider the understandable security interests of Russia and Ukraine. It goes without saying that it can only be harmful if a matter this important becomes a campaign theme on either side of the Atlantic."

"Lip-service was certainly paid to enlargement yesterday as both William Perry, the American Defence Secretary, and Javier Solana, the new Nato chief, emphasised the advantages to Moscow of a larger Nato. "Nato, far from being a threat to Russia, actually contributes to the security of Russia as well as the security of its own members," Mr Perry said. However, he conceded: "When I reached that conclusion most of the Russians I talked to fell off the cliff."

The strongest tone at the conference was set by Andrei Kokoshin, the Deputy Defence Minister and chief Russian speaker, who said enlargement could topple Russia's reform process. "The expansion of Nato in violation of the obvious obligations of the West not to expand it after the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact and the Soviet Union consent to German unification might fundamentally undermine Russia's confidence in the policy of the West," Mr Kokoshin added.

Nato was still seen as a basically hostile alliance. "Many of you see it as a changing entity. Russians view it as something that has not changed, which is taking advantage of our difficulties."



Zyuganov: expansion would disrupt balance

chological situation in Moscow," he said.

Germany, with Britain, has been an energetic champion of Central European membership of Nato. But over the past few months there have been signs that Germany is becoming lukewarm about the idea at least until after the Russian election. Every effort had to be made not to irritate Russia, Herr Kohl said. "We must

'Madame Maigret' takes on the criminals of Paris

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE new head of the *Brigade Criminelle*, the criminal investigation unit of the Paris police, strikes fear into the most hardened criminal, swears like a trooper and wears large dangling earrings.

Martine Monteil, 46, will today become the first female Commissaire of the elite unit often referred to simply as *La Crime*, an appointment that has sent a jolt through this hitherto male-dominated preserve. Mme Monteil's offices, on the top floor of 36, Quai des Orfèvres, were occupied most memorably by Commissaire Jules Maigret, the great fictional detective created by Georges Simenon. Long before her appointment, France's highest-ranking po-

licewoman was known as "Madame Maigret".

The daughter, granddaughter and wife of policemen, Mme Monteil looks like a society hostess but is widely regarded as one of the toughest officers on the force. Her desk lamp, made from her father's pistol, is the unequivocal statement of a woman who shoots from the hip.

In 1979, two years before the birth of her daughter, Mme Monteil became the first woman to be appointed as police commissioner. She often recalls how visitors would walk into her office and say "Excuse me Madame, I would like to talk to the commissioner." She said: "The good old boys who had been there twenty years

weren't going to take it at the start. I decided to hold on to my femininity, to use it without abusing it, to get on with my job while seeking advice from the veterans."

She worked, often undercover, in the Paris anti-drug squad and some of her greatest successes came as head of the anti-prostitution division. In 1992 she dismantled the high-society prostitution ring run by Fernande Grudet, known as Madame Claude. The former madam was apparently left with great respect for the woman who arrested her and has been quoted as applauding her promotion.

With 110 men under her command, Mme Monteil will now be in charge of the city's most high-profile cases.



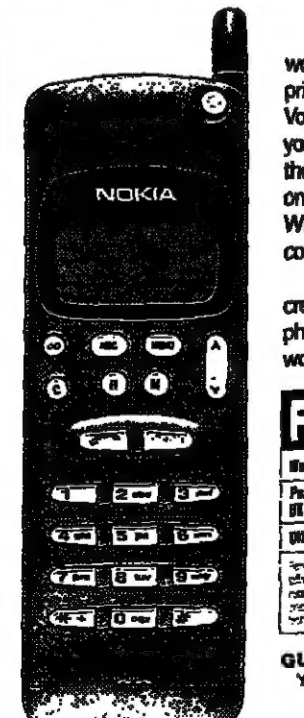
Martine Monteil, who is renowned for her toughness

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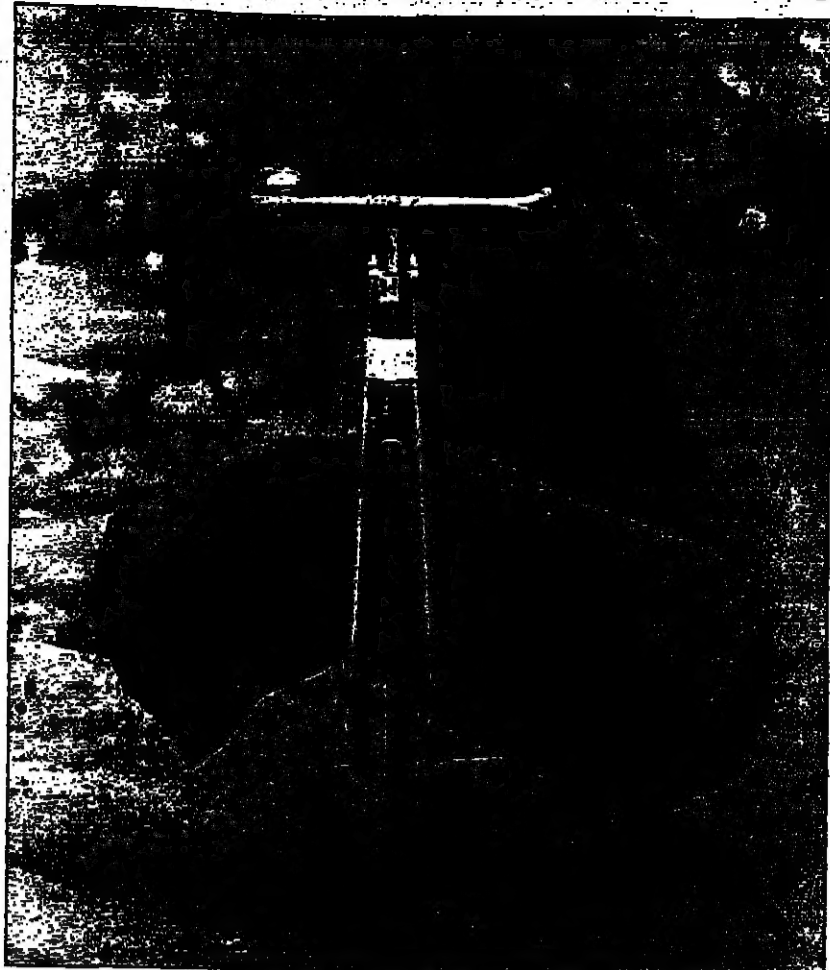
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Red Cross braves siege of Kabul to deliver aid for the victims of war



An Afghan boy, left, ferries home a bag of charcoal delivered to Kabul by the first flight of a Red Cross airlift. Veiled women, right, brandishing their ID cards, wait for food at the city's airport.

Twenty tonnes of emergency supplies were brought into the besieged and starving city on Saturday, but the International Committee of the Red Cross was forced to delay its operation by Customs officials in Pakistan. Relief agency sources said the Red Cross did not have an export license.

Andrei Mermillon, relief co-ordinator with the Red Cross, said: "The distribution today is for Kabul's war wounded, resulting from mines, rockets or bullets, and we will be supplying 945 families, about 5,000 to 6,000 people."

Pakistani Customs said yesterday that they would allow the Red Cross to resume its airlift today.

Kabul has been virtually cut off for nearly three weeks, with only occasional supplies reaching the city. Taliban fighters, entrenched in hills, have kept up a siege since October, vowing to replace President Burhanuddin Rabbani with a militant Islamic order.

Yesterday rebels fired artillery at Kabul, wounding two people. Seven artillery rounds hit a residential area of the city, witnesses said.

PHOTOGRAPHS:
ADRIAN BROOKS



Strong quake kills 240 in Chinese town

FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN PEKING

CHINESE rescue workers continued last night searching for survivors in the rubble of the remote town of Lijiang after one of the region's worst earthquakes in years, measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale. The town, near the Tibetan border, was devastated and at least 240 people were killed and nearly 4,000 injured.

About 2,000 soldiers and police, supported by squads of doctors and nurses, were scouring the remains of mud-brick homes which collapsed when the earthquake struck Lijiang and surrounding villages in southwest Yunnan province, a provincial official said in Kunming, 1,300 miles from Peking.

Some people drowned in flash floods, officials said, and on one Lijiang farm 29 people were killed. About 10 per cent of the old-style houses in Lijiang were destroyed and water and electricity cut.

The toll could rise as rescue workers reach more isolated hamlets, the spokesman said. He described the earthquake as "terrifying".

The tremor shook the rugged, mountainous district for about six seconds at 7.14pm local time on Saturday when most people were at home. Residents fled into the street. Fearing aftershocks, they camped outdoors overnight, despite near-freezing temperatures.

Foreign tourists visiting the remote and scenic district that is the home of China's Naixi ethnic minority were evacuated from hotels in Lijiang and



moved into tents, spending the night around fires in the main city square.

More than 150 aftershocks have been recorded, including 18 measuring more than 4.0 on the Richter scale. About 16 of the 24 towns in the county also suffered considerable damage, officials said.

The nearby town of Zhongdian, capital of the Daping Tibetan autonomous region, was cut off from the outside world, the Xinhua agency said, adding that Yunnan's provincial government had sent officials to the area.

Seismologists last month forecast several earthquakes measuring from 6.0 to 7.0 in the region, Xinhua said. Since 1930, three earthquakes measuring more than 6.0 on the Richter scale have hit Lijiang and Zhongdian, the agency said. Southwest Yunnan is prone to earthquakes and was struck several times last year.

At a plea: The Red Cross Society of China appealed for international aid, saying it had informed the International Red Cross and sent five medical teams and 900,000 yuan (£7,500) worth of food, clothes, medicines and quilts to victims. (Reuters)

Patten calls for talks on colony

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY
IN HONG KONG

CHRIS PATTEN, the Governor of Hong Kong, yesterday urged the Peking-appointed Preparatory Committee, which will formulate the government taking over next year, to enter into discussions with the Legislative Council.

In a radio address to the city, Mr Patten said everyone involved had a shared interest for "Hong Kong to make it through to 1998 and beyond in the best possible shape despite the pessimists and the critics". His suggestion is unlikely to find favour in Peking.

The committee was inaugurated ten days ago in Peking with a speech by President Jiang Zemin. Its 150 members, more than 90 of whom come from Hong Kong, were appointed by Peking and the body is chaired by Qian Qichen, the Foreign Minister. Fourteen members concurrently sit on the Legislative Council, the 60-member democratically elected parliament.

The Preparatory Committee's main job is to recommend a 400-member "election committee", which will recommend a chief executive to succeed Mr Patten.

Peking acts to police Internet

BY JAMES PRINGLE

THE Chinese authorities yesterday issued regulations governing access to the Internet. The rules take effect immediately and require all computer companies that provide access to the Internet to be officially approved. They also prohibit the distribution and reception of "seditious and pornographic" material.

Xinhua, the Chinese news agency, said anyone violating the regulations would be seriously dealt with. Diplomats said the Chinese move reflected a growing concern among many countries about the lack of direct legal regulation over the material which is readily available on the Internet in increasing quantities.

Under rules issued by Xinhua, all computer information networks must use channels provided by the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPT) to hook up to networks abroad. All interactive networks will be subject to management by the MPT, the Ministry of Electronics Industry, the State Education Commission and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the regulations stipulate.

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Ref. No. 42035

Republican also-rans spot an opening as race turns into a frantic gallop

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS in Louisiana cast the first votes tomorrow in the shortest, and potentially most shambolic, race yet for an American presidential nomination.

A record 33 of the 50 states will be holding primaries and caucuses over the next 48 hectic days because many, including California, have advanced their contests to try to increase their influence.

This truncation seemed of little consequence when Robert Dole,

the veteran Senate majority leader, was prohibitive favourite for the Republican nomination, but could matter immensely now his campaign is faltering.

Sieve Forbes, the multi-millionaire publisher, has exposed the shallowness of Mr Dole's support, but the political novice is scarcely a credible nominee himself. Were his balloon to burst — as many analysts predict — the Texas senator, Phil Gramm, former Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander, the conservative commentator Pat Buchanan, or even Indiana's Sen-

ator Richard Lugar could emerge from the obscurity in which they have languished so long.

In no state after Iowa and New Hampshire will Republican voters have the chance seriously to evaluate those alternatives to Mr Dole. The crush of contests will prevent real campaigning or meaningful debate. Candidates will be forced to sell themselves through 30-second commercials and airport soundbites.

The compressed timetable favours Mr Dole as easily the best-known and best-financed candi-

diate. But it means by late March the Republicans will be saddled with either a nominee who demonstrably fails to excite the troops or one hardly tested.

Either way he will be nearly broke, but ineligible for federal funds until his status is confirmed at a convention postponed until August because of July's Atlanta Olympics. By contrast, President Clinton, who faces no challenge for the Democratic nomination, will have a huge war chest to spend.

The irony is that the impact of the Iowa and New Hampshire

contests will be greater than ever, while those states that advanced contests have diminished, not increased, their influence. Louisiana is a prime example. Only Mr Gramm, Mr Buchanan and Alan Keyes, a black radio chat-show host, are contesting tomorrow's caucuses. The other six candidates feared offending Iowa voters furious that Louisiana is challenging that state's right to hold the nation's first caucus.

The Louisiana caucuses have thus been devalued, but are nonetheless an important subplot. All

three contestants are hardline conservatives. Whoever wins will portray himself as the true conservative standard-bearer going into next Tuesday's Iowa caucuses while the credibility of the losers will be badly damaged.

The stakes are especially high for Mr Gramm. From neighbouring Texas, he has worked Louisiana hard and has the backing of the state's Republican hierarchy which has rigged the rules to help him. To lose Louisiana would be a disaster, but he is being pressed hard by Mr Buchanan, the man

who savaged President Bush in 1992's Republican primaries.

Mr Buchanan is claiming the populist mantle of Huey Long, Louisiana's legendary Governor of the 1930s, presenting himself as the champion of ordinary working men against corporations moving jobs abroad. He won last week's straw poll of 10,000 Republicans in Alaska and is edging upwards in New Hampshire polls.

He argues: "If we can come out of Louisiana with a dramatic showing, I think it is all over for Phil Gramm."

Big freeze across America kills 42 and blights crops

BY JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ARCTIC cold swept across North America at the weekend, threatening to freeze the ears off cattle in Canada and endangering the citrus crop as far south as Florida.

Record low temperatures were measured from the Rocky Mountains in the West to the Atlantic coast and well into the Deep South. The tiny Minnesota town of Tower, which has a population of 500, broke a 97-year-old state record to become the coldest place in the United States at -60C (-76F). In Chicago, where 600 people died in a heatwave last summer, the authorities put their new "extreme weather operation plan" into operation to protect residents.

In Washington, which is still recovering from last month's huge blizzard, Marion Barry, the Mayor, appealed for federal assistance to clear 8 in of snow.

New record lows were posted for Utah, where Salt Lake City fell to -24C (-12F) and Alabama, where Huntsville posted a low of -14C (7F).

The temperature in normally steamy New Orleans plummeted to -5C (23F) while lows of -3C (26F) were expected overnight in citrus-growing areas of central Florida.

At least 42 deaths were attributed to the icy weather. In some cases these were due to fires started by individuals trying to keep warm.

Tens of thousands of homes

as far south as Louisiana and Mississippi found themselves without electricity as ice brought down powerlines, and garages were flooded with calls from motorists stranded on snow-bound roads.

The cold also brought its merrier moments, however. In International Falls, Minnesota, which calls itself the nation's ice box, one resident made a video of boiling water being thrown into the air and freezing before it hit the ground.

Two other residents of Minnesota braved a wind-chill factor of -40C (-40F) to get married in an outdoor ceremony at the annual winter carnival in the city of St Paul. Sherry Neary and Ken Wahlgren removed their gloves just long enough to exchange rings, and then slid down 200ft snow slides. "She melted the icicles off his moustache when she was kissing him," a carnival spokeswoman said.

The carnival cancelled appearances by all school bands because of the fear that youngsters playing brass instruments would get them frozen to their lips.

Despite the freezing temperatures, political campaigning continued in Iowa as Republican presidential contenders vied for votes in forthcoming state caucuses.

"This is a good place to meet," Steve Forbes, the mil-

lionaire publisher and presidential hopeful, told a group of voters gathered at a coffee shop. "You can get some hot coffee to warm your hands, and now you can get some hot air to warm the rest of you."

Wayne Sharp, a dairy farmer near Valentine, Nebraska, was coping with the severe cold in a house with only a wood-burning stove for heating. "It isn't a lot of fun," he said. "We shut off about four rooms and kind of live in the living room and the kitchen." And while his family was cold, he said his cows were irritable, with frost-bitten teats.

In Wisconsin, sponsors of the annual Badger State winter games in Wausau cancelled skiing and other outdoor events. About 5,500 amateurs were registered for the competition.

Along the Virginia coast, a cargo ship buffeted by high winds and an ground near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. Freezing rain put a slippery glaze of ice on roads, trees and power lines across the lower Atlantic Coast states as far south as Georgia.

In North Carolina, a US Air jet that had landed at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport slid off a taxiway into grass. None of the crew and 21 passengers aboard the Boeing 737 was injured. The plane, which had arrived from Pittsburgh, was not damaged, according to airport officials.



Cattle, their muzzles and hides frozen by their breath, cluster together for warmth on a farm in Norwalk, Iowa.

Britain a victim of ill wind's flight path

BY W. J. BURROUGHS

ONE reaction to the extremely cold weather gripping much of America is to assume that similar temperatures are coming our way. This seems to be based on the analysis that prevailing westerly winds will carry weather across the Atlantic within a week or so.

Taken at face value, this is a fallacy. The surges of Arctic air that bring cold weather to the eastern half of America are played out long before they cross the Atlantic. But there is a more subtle explanation for the possible connection between weather on each side of the

Atlantic. In winter, the westerly circulation of the jet stream, the strong winds in the upper atmosphere in the middle latitudes of the northern hemisphere, can get stuck in a meandering pattern.

Because this circulation steers the course of the surface weather systems, it leads to Arctic air being funnelled southwards in some places, while in intermediate regions this is balanced by warm sub-tropical air moving northwards.

Cold weather in eastern America is often linked to a circulation pattern centred on the Rocky Mountains, with warm air moving up the West Coast

while to the east cold air sweeps down from Canada. Downstream, the next wave in the meandering pattern can sometimes produce an area of high pressure close to Britain, which brings cold easterly winds.

In winters like those in 1940, 1963 and 1979, this pattern can be maintained for weeks. Long-term statistics suggest that there is little justification for assuming that the cold pattern will hold sway, and we are just as likely to have mild weather as to share in the discomfort of our American cousins.

Forecast, page 20

Jerusalem café to take its last orders

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE Café Atara, one of Jerusalem's great literary and social landmarks, which has survived for nearly six decades despite shelling and terrorist bombings, is finally to close. It has become the victim of the owner's decision to sell out to Pizza Hut, the latest American company to open a franchise in the Holy City.

The Atara, in the heart of Jewish west Jerusalem, reflected the European influence on life in the territory. Moshe Dayan, the war hero, was one of many top politicians who were regulars there. Amos Oz, the novelist, featured the café in one of his bestsellers and countless romances blossomed amid the aroma of finely brewed coffee under its Art Deco roof.

The news of its closure has shattered many veteran customers already concerned by what President Weizman has called the "Americanisation" of Israel. Pizza Hut will join a non-kosher McDonald's, Blockbuster Videos, Tower



Moshe Dayan, who was a regular at Café Atara, in west Jerusalem, which is due to become a Pizza Hut

Records and Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream which have all recently opened in the centre of Jerusalem within a few hundred yards of each other. The Atara was founded in 1938 by Heinz Greenspan, a refugee from Nazi Germany. The café immediately attracted a lively and mixed clientele, including British officers, Palestinian businessmen, social-

ists and members of rival Jewish militias. Uri Greenspan, the founder's grandson, said he could not resist an offer from Pizza Hut to sell his tenant's rights for a reported \$330,000, and added that the café had never closed, even when Jerusalem was shelled in the 1948 War of Independence and the 1967 Six Day War.

UN to cut 1,150 jobs at its HQ

BY JAMES BONE

THE United Nations, due to run out of money in April, is planning unprecedented job cuts at its New York headquarters. A confidential memorandum obtained by *The Times* says it will trim 1,150 people from its 14,000 staff by the end of this year.

The secretariat cutbacks have been forced on the UN by America, which lobbied successfully for a reduction in the organisation's budget to placate the Republican-controlled Congress. Members owe the UN about \$3.3 billion in unpaid dues, almost half of which is owed by America.

The memorandum, which records a meeting of the advisory panel on management and finance, says 210 professional staff and 480 clerical workers must go. The cuts "may affect some areas to such an extent that the activities cannot be sustained".

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, is expected to announce cost-savings at the General Assembly's budgetary committee tomorrow. It is rumoured he may shut the headquarters for a month.

Christopher tries to hasten pace of Israeli peace talks

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

WARREN CHRISTOPHER, the US Secretary of State, today launches his seventh and most testing diplomatic mission between Israel and Syria in an attempt to boost peace talks before elections in both Israel and the United States this year.

Mr Christopher arrived in Jerusalem to find Israel already embroiled in pre-election fever. However, Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, has yet to make a formal announcement that the date of the poll is being brought forward from October 29 to either late May or early June.

After a meeting with Mr Peres yesterday, Ranan Cohen, the head of the ruling Labour Party's Knesset faction, lambasted the Likud opposition for criticising the reported decision to bring forward the poll and forecast that voting would take place on May 14, 21 or 28.

Likud, which is lagging badly in the opinion polls as a result of a backlash after the assassination in November of Yitzhak Rabin by a right-wing Jewish fanatic, took large advertisements in yesterday's Is-

raeli papers under the new slogan "Giving Up the Golan is National Suicide". The peace talks with Syria are likely to play a key role in what is expected to be a heated and divisive campaign.

American officials are re-signing to an early Israeli election, although privately admit that it will slow down, if not completely halt, the peace talks that have been taking place in Maryland.

Mr Peres, who claims that civil servants and not elected politicians are doing the talking, has vowed to keep the negotiations going, even if an early poll is announced.

Yesterday Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, the Israeli Housing Minister, said Labour needed an early mandate from the people to make far-reaching decisions in talks with both Syria and the Palestinians.

The minister, whose background will be vital in helping Labour win votes among the Oriental Jewish community that has tended to favour Likud in recent years, claimed that early elections were a good idea to reduce the possi-

bility of months of attacks by Palestinian or Islamic terrorists, which could turn the electorate against the peace process.

The latest opinion poll published in Israel gave Mr Peres 46 per cent of the vote in his campaign to be re-elected as Prime Minister, compared with only 30 per cent for Binyamin Netanyahu, the Likud leader. Mr Peres has pledged that, if a peace deal with Syria is reached after the election, any decision to hand back the Golan Heights, conquered from Syria in 1967, would be subject to a national referendum.

Mr Christopher, who has invested much time and effort in his bid to tie up an Israeli-Syrian peace deal prior to the American presidential election in November, is expected to try to use the likelihood of an imminent poll in Israel as a tool to persuade Syria to hurry the present rather sedate pace of talks.

Israel has also asked him to try to arrange a summit between Mr Peres and President Assad, but that is considered unlikely at this stage.

China at risk of US sanctions

Washington: The Administration has threatened tough sanctions against China unless it starts to honour a year-old trade deal ending Chinese piracy of American videos, music and computer software. (Martin Fletcher writes.)

Mickey Kantor, the American trade representative, has threatened 100 per cent tariffs on more than \$1 billion (\$667-million) of Chinese imports unless Peking closes more than 30 factories producing huge quantities of pirated products. The New York Times disclosed yesterday.

Some Administration officials fear Washington's hard line will damage its efforts to defuse rising tensions between China and Taiwan.

Settler shoots Arab youth

Jerusalem: A Jewish settler opened fire on Palestinian students near a West Bank school, wounding a 16-year-old. An Israeli army spokesman said the Israeli driver started to fire after stones were thrown at his car.

The shooting took place in the Palestinian village of Sawiya, near Nablus. A worker at a hospital in Nablus said the 16-year-old youth was shot in the lower back and his condition after surgery was "moderate". (AP)

Bomb suspect is deported

Nicosia: A Saudi man wanted for the November bombing of the American-run Saudi National Guard training centre in Riyadh, in which five Americans and two Indians died, has been deported to Saudi Arabia by Pakistan. (Michael Theodorou writes.) Hassan al-Sarraf had lived in Pakistan since 1990. Saudi dissidents blamed the attack on Islamic militants who fought against Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

'Million-dollar kicker' relaxes

New York: Michael Volino, the New York policeman who has won the chance to kick a million-dollar goal at an American football game in Hawaii, has prepared for it by following his wife's advice and relaxing by the pool. (James Bone writes.) Sergeant Volino will win \$1 million if he scores the equivalent of a rugby place kick from 25 yards.

Gunmen attack publisher

Lagos: Alex Ibru, publisher of Nigeria's leading independent newspaper, *The Guardian*, has survived a murder attempt, the newspaper said. He was shot inside his car in Lagos. Doctors said Mr Ibru, 61, was hit in the head and may lose his left eye. He was also shot in the leg. (Reuters)

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GOLF



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Woosnam drives back to top of the world

ATHLETICS



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Gunnell happy to settle for second best

RUGBY UNION



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Why are England so slow on the uptake?

SCHOOLS SPORT

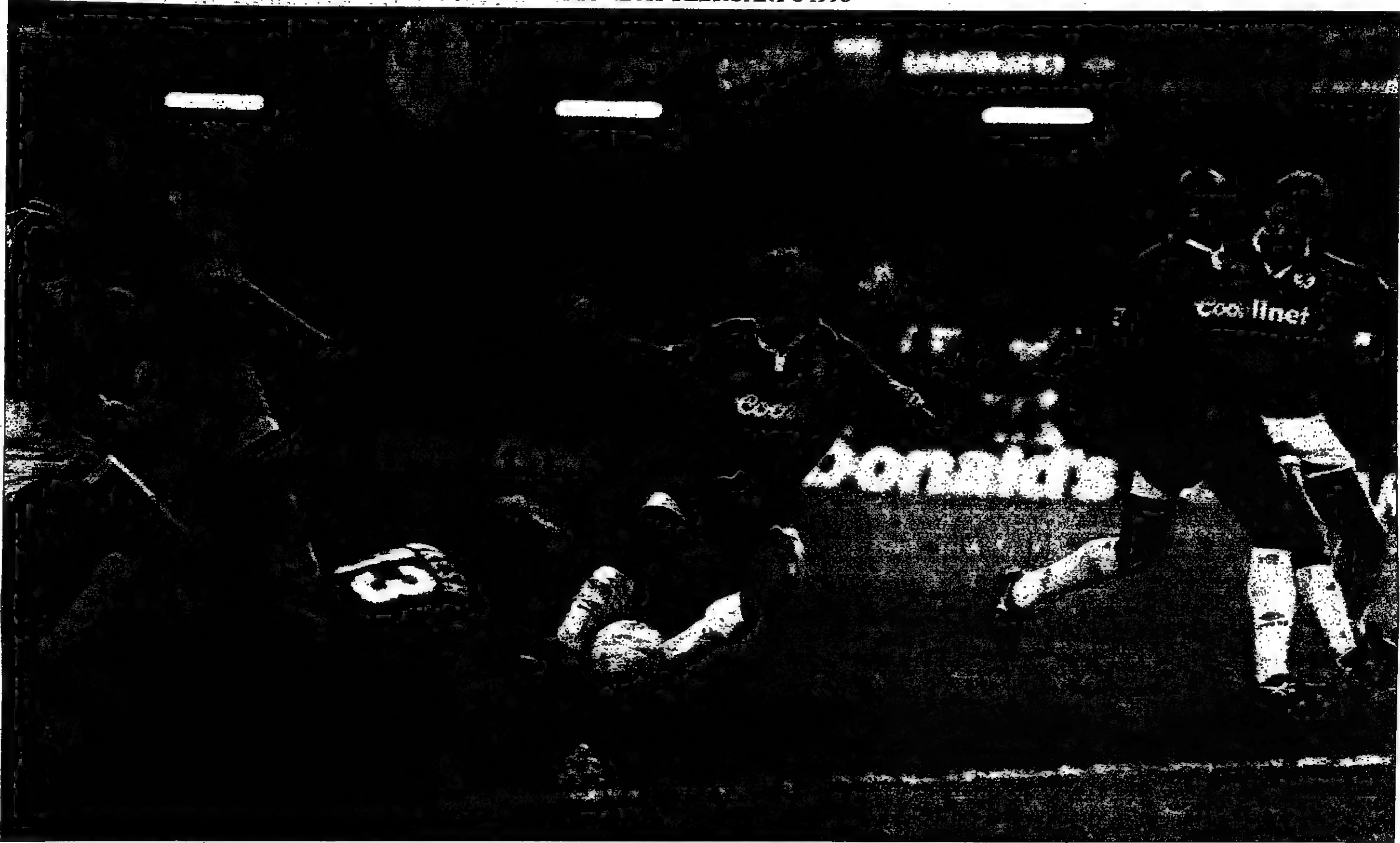


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Kwik way proves more than hit and miss

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY FEBRUARY 5 1996



Peacock sweeps in his second and Chelsea's third goal during their impressive dismissal of an outclassed and shell-shocked Middlesbrough at Stamford Bridge yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Gullit masterminds demolition of Middlesbrough Chelsea turn back the clock

Chelsea 5
Middlesbrough 0
By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

CHELSEA have not flowed like this not dominated opponents or passed the ball with such mellifluous touch for at least a quarter of a century. They were ruthless for 70 minutes yesterday, taking a pitiable Middlesbrough apart, scoring five times when the total could almost have been double.

It takes them to within three points of the fourth-placed team in the FA Cup Premiership. It takes the fathers of small sons back to their own boyhood when players of the essence of Charlie Cooke, Alan Hudson and Peter Osgood were filling Stamford Bridge with film stars, non-stars and tens of thousands of people who came to appreciate that the ball had a greater purpose than merely being a wind-bag hoisted uncaringly the length of the field by British boots.

In fact, this was the biggest Chelsea win in the top flight since 1964 and only Ruud Gullit, of this side, was alive, just, in that vintage year. Glenn Hoddle was then a youngster and is now the builder of this new Chelsea revolution, a builder, who learnt that he and his wonderful brand of football was better appreciated on the Continent.

So it is that Hoddle may be a target for the Football Association as coach of England instead of the man whose team — whose reserves — his Chelsea so soundly whipped yesterday. Bryan Robson reiterated afterwards that he has not been offered Terry Venables's job and that he feels such an offer would be premature in his coaching life. Hoddle was somewhat more enigmatic when the same proposition was put to him by the

press, for they are messengers only of speculation and Hoddle insists that nobody can turn down a job that "nobody has been offered".

Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, reveling in rumours of renewed feuding in the boardroom, was in typically "shy" mood on Saturday when asked if he would release his manager for the betterment of England. "Glenn would be an absolute idiot if he were to take the England job," Bates, who happens to be an FA councillor, retorted.

Yet why pontificate on what may or may not be when the football laid before the audience at Stamford Bridge was so majestic? Gullit, effectively the coach in motion, the catalyst for the quite astonishing improvement in passing and vision at Chelsea, could himself be a candidate to lead England if ever Lancaster Gate drops its appalling "no foreigners" myopia.

From midfield, Gullit orchestrated the slaughter of the Middlesbrough lambs. The visitors, still struggling to acclimatise to life in the Premiership after their promotion from the Endleigh Insurance League first division last season, could not cope with not only Juninho but five other

Clough refocused 26
Cantona returns 27
South Africa's cap 29

senior players absent. They did not show the slightest knowhow of how to stop a giant Dutchman with a 9ft stride and marvellous peripheral vision. They did not dare go forward enough to prevent David Lee, an English defender, from coming forward to stroke the ball 20 or 30 yards with his right foot as if he were well, another Gullit.

Thus they destroyed Middlesbrough. The first goal, it has to be said, was an error by that excellent referee, Keith Cooper. After a corner from Lee in the 25th minute, Middlesbrough pushed up out of defence, leaving Gullit patently offside, his enormous frame right in front of the goalkeeper, Walsh. Nevertheless, when Peacock struck the ball with his right foot, the shot was allowed to bounce in front of and then past the unsighted keeper and to count as a goal.

That slight excuse began Middlesbrough's haze. Three minutes later, a thoroughly legitimate second goal came via the exceptional passing ability of the Romanian, Petrescu. His arrival after two strangely wasted seasons at Sheffield Wednesday has coincided with his opening up of skills seen to the full in the Romania national team and his pass to Spencer was followed by fine control

on the thigh by the little Scot and then a merciless right-foot shot across Walsh.

Seven minutes later, Gullit was pulling the strings again. He exchanged a one-two with Spencer, both of them moving off the ball with intuitive expectation, and then the Dutchman, with the goal seemingly at his mercy, selflessly turned inside instead, saw Peacock and presented his colleague with his second goal of the afternoon.

Peacock was to complete his hat-trick, the first he has scored in the Premiership, after Spencer's wonderful job in the 55th minute, but, before then, the 21,000-strong Chelsea crowd saw something they had given up hope of seeing on their own turf — a goal from Furlong. Even he, apparently a bad boy by Hoddle at over £2 million, is learning the art of refinement. Gullit, inevitably, began the move, striking the ball 40, maybe 50 yards to Petrescu. The Romanian looked for Furlong, found him and then the big centre forward gathered the ball with his left foot, held off Liddle with body strength and finished the goal with his right foot.

Some people became heated by a little spat on the touchline involving Mike Kelly, the Middlesbrough goalkeeper coach, Hudson and Osgood, but why did they bother? We had watched a master class in action, we had seen before our very eyes that a foreigner like Gullit (if there are any more) can inspire and instil British players to use the ball mesmerically, inventively, accurately. Confidence, says Hoddle, is the key.

Chelsea (3-4-2-1): K. Nicholson — F. Sinclair (John E. Johnston, 80th min.), D. Lee, S. Clarke — D. Petrescu, E. Newton, R. Gullit, T. Phelan — J. Spencer (sub. J. Morrison, 74), G. Peacock — P. Furlong.

Middlesbrough (5-3-1-1): G. Walsh — R. Cox, N. Pearson, S. Vickers, C. Liddle, C. Morris — C. Higgins, K. O'Halloran, C. Blackburn — N. Barry — J. A. Fyfe (sub. P. Wilkinson, 60).

Referee: K. Cooper (Pontypool)

Parma pull out of Asprilla deal

By PETER BALL

THE saga of Faustino Asprilla's proposed £7 million transfer from Parma to Newcastle United came to an abrupt end when officials of the clubs met in Milan yesterday. Parma, the Italian League club, withdrew from the deal, claiming that Newcastle had tried to cut the fee because of doubts about Asprilla's fitness.

"Newcastle continue to maintain that there are problems with Asprilla's knee, and so they want a big cut in the price," Giorgio Pedraneschi, the Parma president, said after his club's 1-0 win over Sampdoria yesterday. "We have medical reports which tell us the opposite, and as a result it was not possible to reach any agreement."

With Sir John Hall away, Douglas Hall and Freddie Shepherd, directors, in Dayton, and Freddie Fletcher on his way back from Milan, nobody from Newcastle was available to comment last night. That, at least, was in keeping with the progress of negotiations so far, the club having had little to say on the transfer from the moment that doubts surfaced about Asprilla's fitness.

The transfer has been on ice for two weeks, ever since an X-ray during Asprilla's medical revealed a problem with his knee. Parma have maintained that this was from an old injury, in 1991, and that Asprilla, the Colombia international forward, has been untroubled since. Newcastle have wanted further tests, which the Italian club refused.

Parma have maintained that the transfer was agreed, and are now considering whether to seek arbitration from Fifa, football's world governing body. "We will decide that in the next few days," Pedraneschi said. "If we do that, it will be above all to protect ourselves, and so that everyone knows that the contract is valid and the player is healthy."

Asprilla watched Parma's win yesterday, which took them to second place in Serie A. "I am still tempted by Newcastle's offer, but seeing how things have gone, I'm happy to stay with Parma," he said.

The Football Association of Ireland is expected to announce today that Mick McCarthy, the Millwall manager, will be the new manager in succession to Jack Charlton.

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France flop at Murrayfield as underdogs have their day to head championship table

Scotland's bravado reaps rich reward

Scotland 19
France 14

By MARK SOUSTER

SCOTLAND will head for Cardiff in a fortnight's time the only unbeaten team in the five nations' championship. The dramatic manner of their victory over France on Saturday at Murrayfield will see them start favourites to beat Wales and leave them scenting the possibility, when they meet England next month, of a first grand slam since 1990 — a highly satisfying position for a team dismissed as "potentially hopeless" only three weeks ago.

The Scots were emphatic



CHAMPIONSHIP

winners over a pedestrian French side, one clearly shaken by the vibrancy of Scotland's performance. Jean-Claude Skrela, the France coach, paid his hosts the ultimate compliment after the match — Scotland, he said, had played the kind of rugby that France aspired to.

The performance was not flawless — there are still question marks about Michael Dods's reliability as a kicker, while the inability to convert pressure into points remains a concern — but it would be churlish to be negative when there was so much to enjoy. Rob Wainwright, the Scotland captain, who admitted to being more nervous than he had ever been before an international, said: "It is an incredible feeling. The gratifying

thing is we put into practice what we try on the training ground and credit must go to Richie Dixon and David Johnston, the coaches, for all the hard work they put in."

Jim Telfer, the Scotland manager, was anxious to keep things in perspective. "I think we let them off the hook a little bit. It was not completely fulfilling. We were trying to entertain rather than play a balanced game. We should have calmed the game down a bit in places, but if you don't take chances, you don't win anything."

At the heart of it all was another inspiring display by the Scottish pack, which, while half a stone lighter per man than their opponents, was light years ahead in speed of thought and movement. Repeatedly, the Scots reached the breakdown in numbers, tackled ferociously and drove the French back around the fringes. When France tried to expand, the Scottish cover defence was exemplary.

The French front row was anonymous, Merle and Roumat lumbering and the back row, even Benazzi, obliterated. There must be a huge question mark about their overall fitness: it was sad to see Cabannes barely bother to chase back as he and Dods followed an exquisite chip, delivered with the inside of his right foot, by Bryan Redpath, which resulted in Scotland's first try after eight minutes.

That score was no more than Scotland deserved after a blistering start that rocked the French on their heels and epitomised the Scots' spirit of adventure, with Shepherd, who had a splendid match, leading the charge impressively from full back. When Merle, who was later to receive a yellow card for stamping, stopped him with a throat-high tackle, Clayton Thomas, the referee, allowed more than a minute's advantage, time in which Scotland scored, but only after the full



Shepherd sways away from Benazzi's tackle and prepares to test Carbonneau as Scotland go on the offensive against France on Saturday. Photograph: Martin Cleaver

Wainwright accepts surrender recalling shades of Waterloo

MICHAEL
HENDERSON
At Murrayfield

Wellington was not joking when he made his crack about the playing fields of Eton. "If you want to interest a Frenchman in a game," it has been said, "tell him it's a game." The French, a capricious lot themselves, have never been entirely comfortable with gifted mavericks from these isles. On Saturday they flew the flag of surrender once more and the score had a historic ring to it. 1914, although 1815 would have done just as nicely.

France went to Murrayfield scotching blood; instead they shed their own. That breaking of the dam against England two weeks ago counted for naught as Scotland tore into a team of obvious talent and little resolve. After paying full tribute to Scotland, and one must for theirs was a considerable performance, this was nevertheless a shocking, almost spineless display by the French.

Just when it seemed they had assembled a team that rugby followers of every hue could celebrate, and it is fair to say everybody loves them when "they play as only they can", France revealed the obverse side of their nature. They submitted. It all brought to mind the joke about why



trees line the Champs Elysees — "next time the Germans can march in the shade".

This France team was tree-like but made of willow rather than oak. The Scottish wind plied them double for 80 of the most exhilarating minutes this ground has seen in recent seasons. People could not quite believe what they were seeing. France outplayed by Scotland, so much so that Jim Telfer suggested afterwards with a note of regret that "we let them off the hook a little bit". Not really: the hook was baited well enough.

Tallest among the Scottish oaks stood Rob Wainwright, flanker and captain of indomitable spirit. When Gavin Hastings retired, the talk was not of replacing him as captain but of "succeeding". Hastings' boots, it was assumed, were too big. Wainwright, practical chap, has tried them on and found they fit him rather well. He gathered his players round him and they responded as young men can, but seldom do. Like many other Anglo-

Scots, Wainwright has one of those refined speaking voices that send Scots from the west of the country running for cover. With his strangled vowels, Wainwright could be the chap finally to replace (whoop!) the much-missed Kenneth Williams on that wireless favourite, *Just A Minute*. Indeed, as he is an Army doctor, he can say, as Williams once did, "oo-oh, mmm!"

Wainwright confessed to account for the blistering way his team began it. That opening surge was clearly a release of stored-up nervous energy, as if vessel-bound seamen had suddenly been sent ashore. It was intoxicating stuff and the confident ball-handling and support play made England's talk of an "expansive" game — which means what, widening the pitch? — sadly hollow.

"If you go through the team," Wainwright said, "you will find they all played like

heroes." Nowhere more than at full back, where Rowen Shepherd, of Melrose, came of age, and on the wing, where Michael Dods claimed both tries, the second after a bit of a juggle, and all 19 points. The contrast with France's three musketeers was pointed. Sadoorny, Namack and Saint-Andre left their sabres sheathed.

Scotland's ability to replenish their stock of players from within a small pool is little short of astonishing. They were thought to be treading water but are now halfway to a grand slam. Wainwright and Telfer will not need to remind the players that the more difficult half lies ahead because England, for all their shortcomings, will not lie down as feebly as the French. Men in kilts are already hooting "bring on the English" and Murrayfield's magnificent stadium should witness a mighty struggle on March 2. The small-minded attitudes regarding England are still present in these parts and they will not have got much bigger in a month's time, particularly if Scotland have swept Wales out of the way by then.

In the meantime the message from Scotland to this five nations' championship is clear: get your tanks off our madden.



Dods celebrates his try at Murrayfield yesterday even as he falls to the ground

Hammond fades at testing time

ROGER HAMMOND, occupied with university examinations during January, knows he can do better — and must do — if he is again to be a world champion at cyclo-cross (Peter Bryan writes).

For the opening half-hour of the world under-23 event on the eastern outskirts of Paris on Saturday, Hammond, in his final year at Brunel, gave every hope of repeating his 1992 success, when he won the junior title. He was one of half a dozen early leaders on the muddy circuit, beneath which ice threatened the unwary, and he had the power and confidence to do his share at the front.

As the 21km race went into the closing stages, however, Hammond's body drained of strength and he appeared to be going backwards as riders quickly came from behind to overhaul him.

Miguel Martinez, of France, riding a mountain bike, seized his chance to snatch victory in 46min 57sec, with Hammond trailing in — still the best Briton — nineteenth and 1min 18sec behind the new champion.

The Five Cities track league series at the National Cycling Centre ended in victory for Manchester, with a 13-point lead over London and 20 points over Edinburgh.

Kwik way for cricket to catch them young

By JOHN GOODBODY

CRICKET is not the easiest sport to introduce to youngsters. The traditional game demands time and patience and a high level of skill, something that small children do not usually possess. They like action and non-stop involvement compressed into short periods of the primary school day.

The London Schools' Cricket Project has met these difficulties head-on. Desperately keen that more youngsters should be introduced to the sport, it sent coaches to 811 primary schools between 1990 and 1995 to give concentrated instruction and supervision of Kwik cricket. In this academic year alone, it is hoping to visit 622 schools in the capital.

The William Davies School in Forest Gate, East London did not have the most cheerful of January afternoons last week to introduce youngsters to England's traditional summer game. The sun may have been shining but a sharp wind cut across the playground. With 30 pupils eager for exercise, it did not seem to be a suitable day for refining individual technique.

Yet, what was remarkable was the amount of individual tuition that was possible by one coach, while still keeping the interest of the rest of the class. During bowling practice, the youngsters would deliver their balls and then

run across the tarmac to swap places with their partners. In this way, not only did they keep warm but they also got more exercise.

Vic Griffith, the coach, said: "I always try to get their attention, to get them to focus on me and, while they are in the cold, to get them to move up and down. They should have as much enjoyment and exercise as possible."

At this co-educational school, he is preaching, if not always to the converted, at least to the interested. Ninety-five per cent of the 250 pupils come from the ethnic minorities, particularly the sub-continent.



Gill Gordon, the head teacher, said: "They know far more about cricketers than footballers and their fathers will often play cricket with them on the park. They support England

against Australia or the West Indies, but when England are playing India or Pakistan, where they are."

She has always welcomed the Project's suggestion to send in a coach for five sessions a year. "Cricket teaches teamwork and the discipline of learning a game, with its rules and need for fairness."

The Project has a budget of about £100,000 for this year to help to pay for two full-time and ten part-time coaches to tour the London schools. This total includes £5,000 from Tesco — the supermarket chain — plus a further £5,000

from the Government's Sportsman scheme.

This particular sponsorship encourages youngsters to attend more advanced free coaching clinics in their boroughs, after their initial "taster" courses in their individual schools. The rest of the funds come from MCC, county clubs, charitable and cricket trusts and donations from the schools.

Oliver McClintock, the deputy co-ordinator of the Project, says: "If just one child from each school wants to play cricket at recreational level as an adult, we will have 600 children going into the game every year. However, we are not only creating the players of the future. We are also creating the parents and paying public of the future."

Haydn Davies, vice-chairman of the Essex Schools Cricket Association, added: "The main idea is to get children involved with bat and ball, so they will at least try the game out at secondary school."

The hour-long session ended with 25 minutes of Kwik cricket, which allows everyone to have a go, either hitting Griffiths' deliveries across the playground to everyone's delight or missing the ball.

One pupil, Bilal Hassan, 9, said: "I like whacking the ball a long way." He was bowled by one ball, that may have turned on the tarmac. "The ball went wonky," he said.



Pupils at William Davies School get in the swing of a playground Kwik cricket game

Williams ends long wait for Welsh win

By PHIL YATES

MARK WILLIAMS benefited from one of the worst performances of John Parrott's career to win the Regal Welsh Open snooker tournament in Newport on Saturday and so become the first Welshman to capture a world-ranking title for seven years.

Not since the 1989 world championship final, when Parrott collapsed to an 18-3 defeat against Steve Davis, has he played as poorly on an important occasion. Williams, without being anywhere near his best, was never pressed.

In these days, when consistent break-building is a prerequisite for success at the highest level, it is hard to believe that Williams failed to compile a half-century break in the quarter-finals and put together only three during the semi-finals and final.

While his positional play left much to be desired, Williams could not be faulted when it came to the accuracy of his long potting.

Parrott, a warm pre-match favourite to win his second tournament of the season, after his triumph at the Thailand Classic in October, committed a string of unforced errors in the early stages and found himself trailing 5-2 after the first session.

Williams, who had stolen two frames on the pink and

another on the black during the afternoon, must have expected Parrott to mount a fightback on the resumption but the 1991 world and United Kingdom champion continued to struggle.

A run of 60 from Williams, the highest break of the contest, put him 7-2 ahead and Parrott's fate was effectively sealed when he missed a straightforward red after a run of 46 in the tenth frame to allow Williams in for a 52 clearance to the pink.

Williams, who collected a prize of £36,000, began the 1995-96 campaign in 39th place in the world rankings but is now twelfth on the provisional list.

Ian Doyle, head of the Team Sweater Shop management stable, to which the 20-year-old from Ebbw Vale belongs, confirmed yesterday that Williams will be awarded a place in the Regal Scottish Masters in September.

Matthew Stevens, 18, from Carmarthen, took advantage of his wild-card entry to the Benson and Hedges Masters by beating Terry Griffiths 5-3 yesterday at the Wembley Conference Centre to qualify for a match with Alan McManus.

RESULT: Parrott 0-5 Williams (Welsh) 5-2. Parrott (50) 8-3. Frame scores (Williams first): 61-50, 65-4, 5-121, 65-58, 62-43, 0-73, 34-26, 46-11, 75-2, 75-45, 45-71, 72-28.

Rowell's problems accumulate as stuttering victory fails to mask embarrassment at Twickenham

New England pioneers left stranded

England 21
Wales 15By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Welsh, when seeking an adjective for someone who is slow on the uptake, describe them as dull. England are playing "dull" rugby this season, both in the Welsh sense and, ultimately, in the more prosaic sense of the word.

They held the game at Twickenham on Saturday in the palm of their hand and they let it go through a stubborn inflexibility for which they will pay dearly if it is reproduced against Scotland next month. Perhaps it is as well that England have a break from the five nations' championship now; they need to take a long, hard look at how, and with whom, they are playing the game.

The only part of England's game that functioned to any degree in the Save and Prosper international was the midfield, where Will Carling and Jeremy Guscott carved out the sort of openings rarely seen in international rugby. For a year now the scrum has not been the force England claim it to be and the lineout was

FIVE NATIONS



CHAMPIONSHIP

even more of a disaster than in Paris last month.

For that the Welsh deserve credit and no one more than Gareth Llewellyn, who instructed himself in front of England's jumpers and contributed substantially to Wales's 16-7 lineout dominance. Elsewhere, the sense of adventure that earned Hemi Taylor his try must be set against the indiscipline that littered the Welsh game and, quite justifiably, incurred the wrath of the referee, Ken McCartney.

They were penalised 21 times in England's nine, sometimes for the kind of "professional" fouls that, by and large, rugby has escaped: when Guscott creates an opening and looks for support, only to find Mike Catt physically restrained by Leigh Davies, it is time for referees to ponder the route taken by Tony Spreadbury when he awarded that controversial penalty try in the University match in December.

Yet Wales, for whom Robert Howley played so well on his debut, contrived a pattern of sorts whereas England were knocked sadly out of kilter. Jack Rowell, the manager, will have been embarrassed to have been caught by the microphone in the players' tunnel muttering that he could not believe what he was seeing as the game neared what might be inaccurately described as its climax, but he could be excused.

There is no doubt that the England manager has a problem. The inability to translate apparently good training hab-



Guscott, left, with de Glanville, Regan, and Grayson trying to provide support, is hauled back by Nigel Davies, the Wales centre

its to the field of play is a complementary "difficult" on his management skills or those of his executives — captain, pack-leader, senior players. Criticism of the clubs can only be taken so far, since the absence of an identifiable English style has been overcome in the past.

At present, England are not rucking like Bath or mauling like Leicester: they are not playing fast and loose like Wasps or Sale. They are an amorphous mass relieved only by the odd flash of inspiration by the centres and the faithful support of Lawrence Dallaglio. They must rediscover some focus; but there is little sign of the incumbents providing it. For Ben Clarke to claim that England are "close to brewing up a storm" is faintly ludicrous.

They are incapable of sustaining any degree of momentum. The one piece of genuine continuity that led to Rory Underwood's try — his fifteenth in international rugby — stuttered before Jon Sleightholme bowled out a pass that bounced fortuitously for Catt

and all Underwood had to do was run over in the corner.

Otherwise they are prey to the curse of the northern-hemisphere game — ball killed on the ground. Players, from both sides, are not permitted to ruck properly. John Humphreys, the Wales captain, said: "If you are going to lie on the wrong side of the ball you know exactly what to expect and you have to roll away. Spectators come to see running rugby and if people are going to kill the ball, they are stopping the entertainment we can give."

One wonders, though, if England recognise quick ball. So much is held in the back row of a scrum, which is not dominant, that their backs are left with nowhere to go. The direct channel would give Matthew Dawson some opportunities and would, at the very least, leave the decision-making in the hands of the half backs rather than with the back row, whose vision is necessarily more limited.

England must hope that Paul Grayson has had his one bad match of the season. He

missed four first-half penalties and sliced his punts so wretchedly that he could count himself fortunate that Justin Thomas, the Wales full back, was equally poor in his catching and kicking.

Wales, recognising the need to keep the ball as far away from the England pack as possible, attempted little off the back row yet Taylor was one of the most influential players on the field. All their kicking was away from the opposing forwards, including the kick-off, and Arwel Thomas provided the game's magical moment when he tapped a kickable penalty, looked to a void on his right and then

turned left for Gwyn Jones, Wayne Proctor and Leigh Davies to send Taylor over. Underwood's try gave England their 7-5 interval advantage, and when Justin Thomas was casual about his clearance, Guscott charged the kick down and ran on to score. With Grayson finding his range at last and the England forwards beginning to rumble, England should have seized the game; instead Carling left with a recurrence of a knee injury and their aspirations dwindled.

At 21-8 they should have buried Wales. Instead an appalling drop-out by Grayson left Wales with a midfield scrum and the chance of a try, taken with alacrity by Howley through a gap in the English wall. "We have got a Welsh team playing not just for each other but for the Welsh nation and if they get behind us we can take anyone on at home," Kevin Bowring, their coach, said. Even Scotland?

SCORERS: England: T. Howley, J. Guscott, C. Grayson. Wales: J. Taylor, J. Thomas. Penalties: A. Thomas. Conversion: A. Thomas.

Referee: K. W. McCartney (Scotland).
Diary, page 16

Burden lightens as Welsh flair shows the way



GERALD DAVIES

At Twickenham

When the dust has settled and those passions upon which this fixture depends so much have dimmed, this match will be remembered simply for England's win but also, sadly, the overwhelming banality of the way it was achieved. As so often in this fixture there was the brief memorable shaft of brilliance, this time by Wales that produced their first try and was inspired by Arwel Thomas's audacity in ignoring an opportunity to kick a penalty and running with the ball instead. But generally it was of a low standard.

England, despite their fine words in public, should take no comfort from the outcome. There were signs in the running of Guscott and, particularly, Carling of the kind of rugby they say they aspire to. But more indicative of their thinking and the inhibiting caution that almost suffocates them, is their negative approach to the scrum.

Time and again the ball was held and held and held once more until the scrum swivelled and asked to be reformed. The ball remained at the feet of the No 8 and held to the vast Twickenham chorus of "heave". This tedious and, as it turned out, fruitless tactic was pursued relentlessly whether close to the Welsh line or some considerable distance away, and hardly mattered whether Wales or England were in the lead and the scrum included eight Welshmen or fewer.

The tactic remained. With a 15-5 lead and Wales very much on the ropes in the middle period of the second half, England's purpose remained of the defensive kind. There was little desire to attempt much more.

Unquestionably, they have a problem and Jack Rowell, their manager, knows exactly what it is. "It is not a matter of training harder," he said afterwards, "but of thinking smarter."

It is a difficult problem to overcome because if this is to be so, one will have to begin considering the constitution of the back row. All three are powerful and are comfortable

ball-carriers — but they are either unwilling or unable to part with the ball. They are reluctant distributors. Their aim in life is to go to ground. All this was at a time when the centres had the chance of enjoying the kind of freedom in midfield which hitherto has been foreign to them.

England seemed governed by fear. They are victims of their own success. The difference lying between being motivated by defending that reputation instead of attempting to promote it further.

If anything, Wales, despite their defeat and lack of consistency, may well draw a greater comfort than their opponents. There is a way forward for them and they are not so set in their ways. "This was a start of something," Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, said, "not an end."

They were like terriers snapping at the heels of a tired old warhorse. Things did go wrong for Wales, more so than Bowring would have wished, but at least they were willing to test and to learn.

Both players at half back were relaxed and at their confident ease. The other youngsters did well enough, too. Justin Thomas, for his part, however, will have learnt in his match-losing misjudgment, that led to Guscott's try, that to create the time and space in club matches is not quite what it is in the international arena where players are swifter and more clever. If it was not an auspicious time for him, the feeling remains that there is a match-winning game in him.

If Bowring found the unpredictability of these youngsters "heart-stopping" then it must be something he will soon learn to live with. It is the kind of rugby that all Wales wants to see. It is something that he does not want to hinder or shatter.

Each coach envies what the other possesses. Bowring might wish for England's power and ability to maintain possession, whereas Rowell must yearn for the hints that Wales gave of a willingness to avoid the predictable and repetitive.

Forward weaknesses must be resolved

I am beginning to understand the frustration of the supporter in the stand watching England. Like many others I was really excited about the prospect of the game with Wales, after England had shown so much character in a narrow defeat in France last month.

I believed that Tim Rodber would return steaming at the indignity of being dropped, determined to make sure it would not happen again, and that England would produce an explosive opening 20 minutes to put Wales in their place. At the same time it was an opportunity to get the crowd, critical of some of the decisions taken against Western Samoa in the previous home match, back on their side.

It did not happen and, in the closing minutes, England were in the position of having to scrap it out just to make sure of victory. They cannot pretend it will get easier. Murrayfield in a month, against a Scottish team which could be playing for a grand slam, will be no place for airy-fairy rugby.

This is the dilemma of trying to take the game forward amid the cauldron of the five nations' championship and it is where I take issue with those from the southern hemisphere who say that England should have a go and be prepared to lose a few games.

You have to be prepared to grind out victories to develop the confidence which allows you to make progress in your playing style. Even some of the experienced English players are finding that tough, despite the time spent together in preparation. There has been talk of this being a new-look team but it is far from inexperienced; Will Carling, who played with genuine fire



Rob Andrew argues that recalling Dean Richards would lift England morale and give Will Carling valuable support

in his belly on Saturday, needs support in the leadership stakes.

The forwards have not played well this season and there is a strong case for bringing Dean Richards back to lift the morale of the pack. In the past the forwards were always able to turn to him and Brian Moore for physical and

mental resolve, and Richards is still available, in an area where I remain to be convinced that the balance is right anyway. Indeed, England's back row has not yet found a credible successor to Peter Winterbottom, who retired more than two years ago.

The lineout, always an English

strength, has been poor for successive matches and that has deprived England of a crucial platform from which to build a game. That is another issue to be resolved in selection. Your hooker may be industry itself about the field but his primary job is at the lineout and if England are not functioning on their own throw-in, they have to establish why.

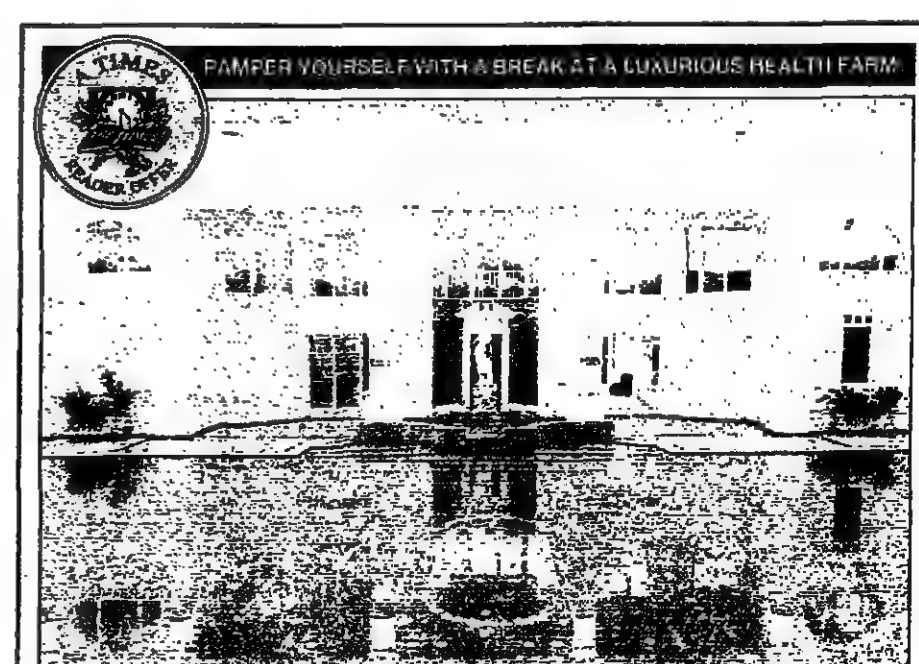
On Saturday, England's game crumbled for technical reasons. Paul Grayson, normally such a fluent striker of the ball off the ground and out of hand, was badly out of sorts. He had played so well in Paris and it may be that at Twickenham the pressure (horrid word) affected him. But when you miss kicks to give your team the advantage, and the opposition rub it in by scoring a great try, then it does affect team morale.

If you miss touch it makes it worse, particularly from penalties. That should be gilt-edged possession deep in opposition territory and three times England could not find touch from penalty awards. No matter how you try to paper over the cracks, as Carling understandably tried to do, they were clearly visible and were emphasised by the poor tactical kicking which lacked purpose or plan.

Even so England fought their way back into the game and the turning point should have arrived when Jerry Guscott scored his try. It was a fortunate one but imagine how dispiriting it must have been for Wales. England should have been able to press home their advantage, but when Carling went off, they shut up shop and nearly threw it away.



Grayson is off target with another penalty kick. The England stand-off had a wayward afternoon, missing five of his nine kicks at goal



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Tottenham deny charge with persuasive defence



Sheringham: came near to breaking the deadlock

In the field of Derek Hutton and the late Bessie Braddock, sending your child to a politically incorrect school is less heinous than passing in the wrong team at Anfield. Tottenham Hotspur cleverly forced Liverpool to do this rather a lot during a tense goalless draw on Saturday.

Because Anfield is also an arena that eschews the premise that competitive sport is harmful to the development of character, dissatisfaction reached a crescendo after an hour when the home supporters were hooting at their team, never mind its second position in the FA Carling Premiership. Bill Shankly's absurd maxim — pre-Heyes — that the game is more important than life or death hung uncomfortably in the air.

Here, in fact, was a marvellously disputed match, in which the collective goalscoring abilities of Fowler and Collymore for Liverpool and Armstrong and Sheringham for Tottenham were continuously de-

nied. Frustrating, but still fascinating fun for all 90 minutes, during which there were 18 scoring chances or half-chances: 11 to Liverpool, seven to Tottenham.

The level of tactical intelligence by both teams and a simultaneous intensity of pressure on the individual in possession were extreme. Tottenham defended ruggedly, the veteran Mabbutt, in particular, smothering Fowler and Collymore through the middle and funneling back to force Jones, McAteer and McManaman on the flanks to go wide. Intercepted passes were an inevitability.

The frustration of the crowd was equally understandable. Victory over Aston Villa at Villa Park in midweek had fuelled speculation that Liverpool might somehow overhaul Newcastle United in the coming weeks, so that to slip back to third place was a severe anticlimax. Yet there was no discredit. Tottenham, with the more dangerous moments, might have won. The

man of the match, if not Mabbutt, was Armstrong.

If there was a criticism of Liverpool it was that Barnes and Thomas, in the centre of a midfield line of five, occasionally seemed weary; that the final pass around the edge of the Tottenham penalty area was occasionally mislaid; and that McManaman, so exciting on the run, and McAteer finished inaccurately. Such is the cost of competent opposition, though. McManaman's lack of firepower may have disappointed the watching Terry Venables. England urgently need a midfield goalscorer to replace Platt.

David Miller sees Liverpool's goalscoring edge blunted by a display of tactical mastery

As for Stephen Lodge, the Barnsley referee, he ran bravely up and down the centre of the field attempting to keep pace with the shuttlecock play, and repeatedly managed to obstruct the line of passing movement. Here was a definitive illustration of the need in the modern game for a two-referee system to reduce the physical burden and double refereeing vision.

The first glaring opening fell to Tottenham after a quarter of an hour. At the other end, Walker had just saved low and comfortably from Collymore. Now Fox put Armstrong away on the right, and his early low cross flashed in front of James Babb having both arms locked around

feet first and failed to make contact by only inches.

Shortly before half-time, Tottenham might again have taken the lead. Campbell, a few yards outside the penalty area, fed a sharp pass to Armstrong, who swivelled to take the ball round the advancing James. The ball ran clear but the spin from a deflection off James carried the ball too far left and an open goal went begging.

Once more Liverpool had cause to breathe thankfully eight minutes into the second half. Sinton's curling, lofted cross was powerfully met by Armstrong no more than four yards out. A 40,000 crowd was looking for the ball in the back of the net before they realised that James had made the most spectacular of reflex saves.

Now Liverpool began to wind up the pressure — and the frustration. They crowded around Tottenham's penalty area but could find no way through. A sizzling drive from 27 yards by Collymore caused Walker,

to blink as he instinctively parried the shot. McManaman, breaking free on the left, shot weakly.

With two minutes remaining, Tottenham again held victory in their hand. Armstrong's run on the left had McAteer and Wright trailing; he cut inside, let rip right-footed and James did well to turn the shot away for a corner. In the last gasp, consecutive shots by McAteer were held by Walker and flew wide of the far post.

Tottenham's performance confirmed the quality established by their manager, Gerry Francis, though they continue to miss the influence of Anderton. The title may be out of reach for Liverpool, but some opponents, unlike Tottenham, can expect to be destroyed.

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D. James — J. Barnes, M. Wright, P. Babb — J. McAteer, M. Thomas, S. McManaman, R. Jones (sub: I. Fiacco, 60min), Fowler, S. Collymore.
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I. Walker — D. Austin, G. Mabbutt, C. Gossard, J. Ledwith — R. Fox, S. Campbell (sub: S. Hetherford, 75), C. Wilson, A. Sinton — C. Armstrong, E. Sheringham.
Referee: S. Lodge

Manager's analysis short on knowledge of English

Southampton 2
Everton 2

By IVO TENNANT

FOOTBALL managers, like cricket coaches, do not need to have made a name for themselves as players. Roy Evans was given a handful of first team appearances by Liverpool and yet gains the respect that is his due. Dave Merrington's playing career belongs in the appendix to some out-of-print almanac.

Here, though, was a man whom Alan Ball, a front-rank footballer, thought able enough to become his assistant at Southampton. When a successor was required in the summer, Lawrie McMenemy told the club's directors that Merrington was their man and their manager. He could hardly have had more emphatic commendations than that.

The enthusiasm that this palpably straightforward man brings to management has been heightened by the fact that his opportunity has come well into his middle years. Before Ball departed, he was little known. Now, at the end of one of his post-match pronouncements, it is impossible not to comprehend what he represents.

Merrington talks of his players needing to pull their pistols out of their holsters, and of the game having to pay for Margaret Thatcher's belief that

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an individual has to look after himself. His giddy discourse continued as he lauded Southampton's players for their performance. This was, he said, "A typically English game of end-to-end football."

Indeed it was. It was a match full of technical errors, misplaced passes, balls thumped upfield and an inability to beat offside traps, all masked by four goals in the second half and performances by Le Tissier and Kanchelskis that set them apart.

In England, a match strewn with mistakes is perceived as thrilling if it finishes as a draw with four goals scored in a frenzied climax. Southampton's equaliser, Magilton volleying past Southall, was seemingly a cracker. Yet the ball reached him through the kind of misplaced header that would be scoffed at on the Continent.

It was all too physical, too frenetic, too English. None of this particularly disconcerted Le Tissier, whom Merrington feels is enjoying his football again, or Kanchelskis. "A classic counter-puncher in the modern game," as Joe Royle, his manager, called him. The way in which he laid on Everton's goals for Stuart and Horne justified the description. That was not always the case with every summation on Saturday.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-5-1): D. Brassant — J. Dodd, R. Hall, K. Morkov, S. Channon — M. Le Tissier, B. Vernon, J. Magilton, G. Watson, M. Walters (sub: M. Oakley, 60min) — N. Shopshire.
EVERTON (4-5-1): N. Southall — M. Johnson, C. Sharp, D. Watson, A. Hinchcliffe — A. Kanchelskis, B. Horne, J. Pugh, G. Stewart, A. Lomax (sub: P. Hendrie, 75), D. Ferguson.
Referee: D. Hokey

Clough refreshed after Pontins break

Simon Barnes on Manchester City's 2-0 win against relegation rivals

How would Liverpool reserves go in the FA Carling Premiership? You would have to fancy their chances of avoiding relegation at the very least — certainly more than Queens Park Rangers and, perhaps, more than Manchester City. There is a huge amount of talent, as well as money, playing regularly in the Pontins League.

It is the same with all the big clubs. While journeymen battle for Premiership survival with the lesser clubs as they visit the big stages of Anfield and Old Trafford, various sublime talents costing millions purvey their out-of-favour skills in secret. It is our loss.

So it was with Nigel Clough, once considered the connoisseur's footballer, once the player on whom Liverpool and England would build their future. Some 2½ years back, he cost £2.3 million to move from his father's former club, Nottingham Forest, to Liverpool. A man apparently custom-made to fulfil the long Liverpool tradition of quiet excellence. Yet he fell out of favour with a change of management. He became Pontins Man.

The situation, hardly unique, is created by the lack of parity of competition in the Premiership. Big clubs don't let their big assets go easily, there being big money tied up in them. And, sometimes, they just do not want to have them playing for rivals. Keeping a good player Pontins-bound can be a sound tactical move in the increasingly loony world of the top half-dozen clubs.

And so we have been deprived of our connoisseur's player, deprived of all those neat touches and thoughtful passes. A cerebral player, Clough. But he has been rescued by Alan Ball and Manchester City, who paid £1 million for him, while Clough took a painful cut from his reported £5,000-a-week Liverpool wages.

At least he is playing Premiership football again, and we are watching him do it. More than two years at Liverpool and only 38 league appearances. Football talent is a



Clough, back in the spotlight after his move to Manchester City, scores on his home debut against Queens Park Rangers. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

precious thing because it lasts for so short a time — say, ten years. Clough has just wasted 20 per cent of his footballing life and he is now 29.

The move is a part of Ball's top-to-bottom reshaping of City. In less than a season, there have been 22 comings and goings at the club. He has signed seven players for a total of £7 million, getting £2 million back on sales. All this while Liverpool spent £8.5 million on a single player.

For the relegation six-pointer against Rangers on Saturday, City had three players making a home debut as starters: Clough, the German

international left back, Frontzeck, and a teenage winger, Martin Phillips.

And there was Clough, looking, as ever, like an actor in an unaccustomed shorts rather than a professional footballer. Speed of thought and deftness of touch have always been his assets: his lack of speed over the ground is almost as famous as his father's personality.

Not one of life's rebels, Clough, son of a tumultuous and overwhelming papa, he chose to follow his father's profession at his father's club. Clough père tells a story about an opposing park-team player who threw a cup of tea over his

free header from a dozen yards; you are not supposed to score from them. Symons got fair contact on the ball and Rangers just watched it go in. They have a doomed look about them.

Not so City. While this is still a team in which the parts are greater than the sum, there were plenty of good things to enjoy — this, despite a ludicrous, scene-stealing performance from the referee, who made 11 bookings, two for poor Dichio, the Rangers substitute, who had to go. Frontzeck is a fearsome as well as a footballing defender; the Georgian, Kinkladze, is a

one-man revival of the term "to dribble" and as for that teenage winger — well, what a debut. He is 19; he was young and infallible and altogether immortal for an afternoon. If he trains on, he will be quite a player. I wonder how much City will sell him for.

Watch out for the Pontins Trap, young fellow.
MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-1-1): E. Ingham — N. Burrows, N. Symons, K. Curle, B. Prosser — M. Phillips, G. Pritchard, G. Kinkladze, S. Lomas (sub: G. Cranney, 80min) — N. Clough — J. Pether (sub: Brightwell, 82).
QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-3-1-2): J. Somner — S. Taylor, A. McDonald, D. Mendes, T. Chaffin — S. Barker, N. Quashie (sub: M. Brazier, 75), I. Holloway, T. Sinclair — M. Hindey (sub: D. Dichio, 65), S. Allen (sub: K. Gullen, 65).
Referee: G. Poll

Shearer plays to strengths

Blackburn Rovers 3
Bolton Wanderers 1

By MARK HODKINSON

A FOOTBALLER'S strength cannot be quantified. It is not about the hardest shot or quickest feet, but the barely discernible traits such as knee and thigh in emphatic harmony or a midriff that expands to nurse a high ball past a defender.

Alan Shearer is the modern embodiment of this covert but imperial strength. Bolton Wanderers played a triad of centre backs on Saturday at Ewood Park but Shearer defied their honest brawn three times, often using their leaden muscle as a spiral staircase when it suited his needs.

Blackburn Rovers' largest crowd of the season lent its unequivocal support to a rare episode in the life of the FA Carling Premiership — a Lancashire derby aside from the biannual conflict of the Manchester, City and United.

The Bolton supporters, a braying, seething assembly in the Darwin End, wanted the victory, probably more so than their team. Bolton might be going down, but their supporters covet the right to a parochial sneer.

Thankfully, intelligent and resolute football won out over dogged endeavour. Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, conceded that his team had been edgy in the first half, a condition probably brought on by Bolton's pugnacious approach.

Shearer's opening goal was a mere tap-in after some intricate passing. Blackburn crafted chances but found Branagan and a crossbar in collusion against them. On their first substantive attack, nearly 30 minutes in, Bolton scored. Curcio crossed from the right and Green headed past Flowers.

With seven minutes remaining and Blackburn supporters

bemoaning the injustice of it all, Branagan groped at a corner and Shearer rammed the ball home. The scoreline was made to mirror the play when Shearer, although marked by three players, headed a sublime cross from Sherwood past Branagan.

Shearer's only error of judgment was to have some fun with a linesman. The referee, Paul Alcock, raced 20 yards to book Shearer for mimicking the official. "The linesman was licking his lips, so I thought I'd lick mine. The linesman was laughing with me. The referee obviously doesn't understand jokes," Shearer said.

Harford and Shearer concluded that the enforced break caused last week by the icy weather had done the trick: the world of good. If Shearer is permitted a few weeks of rest between the end of the English domestic season and the start of the European championship this summer, a nation of football lovers might well be licking his lips, too.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-3-3): T. Flowers — B. Berg, C. Hendrie, G. Gossard, J. Armitage — J. Gushier, T. Sherwood, T. Lomas — S. Reay (sub: W. McCrory, 60min), A. Shearer, M. Weather.
BOLTON WANDERERS (4-3-3): K. Branagan — J. Phillips, C. Farrington (sub: D. Loe, 55), G. Sengstack, S. Sainsbury, S. Dew — S. Curcio, S. Sellers, R. Shroder — J. McCarthy (sub: M. Bore, 37), M. Paulsen.
Referee: P. Alcock

Arsenal reveal soft centre

Arsenal 1
Coventry City 1

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

IT WOULD be stretching a point to compare Arsenal without Adams, Bould and Keown to Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark: more like Macbeth without the three witches. But in the absence of those Highbury totems, the home team lacked their usual authority. Even Ian Wright was less than his normal predatory self, failing in several confrontations with Ogrizovic, the Coventry goalkeeper, including one from the penalty spot.

The visitors also missed chances in a game not lacking in entertainment. However, for all the attacking promise of Whelan and Dublin, and the cajoling, encouraging and organising influence in midfield of Gordon Strachan, their defence, the most generous in the FA Carling Premiership, nearly proved their undoing again.

The uncertainty of Arsenal was exposed from the kick-off. "We might have been three up before they realised we were playing," was Ron Atkinson, the Coventry manager,

viewed the opening exchanges. Indeed, the centre of Arsenal's defence seemed to dissolve on contact with anything sky-blue. Seaman was called on to save spectacularly from Shaw and Whelan, and Dixon cleared Whelan's header from under his own crossbar — all in the first four minutes. When Jensen sent Wright ahead when he put Arsenal ahead when he was brought down after 51 minutes but his penalty was too central and Ogrizovic was there to meet it, as he was when Wright shot low after Merson gave his acting captain another clear run on goal. Both teams went for victory; at one point six Coventry players were stranded upfield as Arsenal broke, but neither goalkeeper deserved to finish on a losing side.

"The scoreline could have been anything," Atkinson said, singling out his two most senior players. "We keep showing Gordon Strachan clips of Stanley Matthews. Ogrizovic made good saves. He's part of our youth policy — he's only about 38."

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D. Seaman — L. Dixon, S. Whelan, A. Linighan, N. Whelan — A. Charles, J. Jensen (sub: S. Hughes, 60min), Merson, G. Helder — D. Bergström, I. Wright.
COVENTRY CITY (4-3-3): S. Ogrizovic — B. Burrows, D. Baines, R. Shaw, M. Hat — G. Strachan (sub: P. Melia, 75), K. Richardson, P. Taylor, J. Salako — N. Whelan, D. Dixon.
Referee: S. Dunn



Wright missed penalty

West Ham find an attractive route to safety

West Ham United 1
Nottingham Forest 0

By ALYSON RUDD

WHEN Kris Akabusi, at the launch of a £20 million campaign to promote London as a tourist attraction, said the capital could boast theatres, restaurants and football clubs, the best being West Ham United, the organisers must have groaned at the thought of Japanese tourists shuffling towards Upton Park searching in vain for Gary Lineker and gazing in horror at the grubby high street before catching the first flight to Paris.

A week ago, when the air at Upton Park reeked of relegation, their concern would have been justified. Now it wafts around like copious amounts of perfume. West Ham have signed, on loan from Sporting Lisbon, Dani, the most good-looking footballer in the world.

As he moved away from the substitutes' bench to begin warming up on Saturday, women teetered on dikes straining to catch a glimpse of the exceptionally pretty 19-year-old Portuguese international. He only played for eight minutes, but quickly acknowledged his role as a tourist attraction by attempting to chip the goalkeeper from the halfway line.

This was probably not what Sporting Lisbon had in mind when they sent Dani to London to gain some maturity. Poor performance by the Portuguese club had put pressure on Dani to keep on saving the day, pressure he found difficult to handle.

Fortunately for Dani, West Ham have suddenly embraced glamour and will not rely too heavily on him. They have also signed Slaven Bilic, the outstanding Croatia defender, and Ili Duntrescu, the underrated Romania forward.

It was Williamson, 22, a product of the youth policy, who dominated this game. Playing unusually in his favoured central role, he tore Nottingham Forest apart. It was his pass that induced the error from Cooper that allowed Slater to score the decisive goal.

West Ham no longer look like relegation fodder, although the real test will come over the next fortnight when they play two London derbies away from home and then Newcastle United.

One other tourist attraction at Upton Park, their Super Screen System, is the most unintentionally entertaining of its type. "Player injured" its graphic screamed when all 22 were happy on their feet. "We are not worthy" a bowling Pinocchio cartoon informed us when the ball rolled unimpressively out of play for a throw-in. However, if West Ham maintain their momentum there will be plenty of sides discovering, as Forest did, that they are indeed not worthy.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-2): L. McCloskey — M. Brown, M. Pappas, R. Potts, J. Dicks — R. Slater (sub: A. Whitbread, 60min), D. Williamson, I. Bilic, M. Hughes — D. A. Connor.
NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-3-3): M. Crossley — D. Lytle, G. Cooper, S. Christie, D. Phelps — S. Gerrard (sub: A. Hirst, 70), G. Barrow, I. Walsh — A. Skirrow, B. Roy — K. Campbell.
Referee: K. Burge

Flying Frenchman makes a triumphant touchdown on his return to Selhurst Park

Cantona savouring lull after the storm

Wimbledon 2
Manchester United 4

By ROSE HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE calm after the Selhurst Park storm of one year ago came to Eric Cantona on Saturday. There was evil about in the background, but Cantona had no part in it. He scored twice, he put himself at the service of his team, he roamed to find space, he tackled back, he lent his height to his defence, and throughout the afternoon the word best suited to his performance was composure.

Alex Ferguson, his manager, dismissed all talk of Cantona's return as trivial but Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager beleaguered by a list of absentees running into double figures, was more effusive. "Cantona? He's got everything that's great about a player. He drifts in, ghosts in and out, making it almost impossible

South Africa triumph — 29
High-flying Stevenage — 29

to do anything about him. Some say he's a lesser player since he's come back, but I can't see that."

Perhaps, after all, the uniform dictates the mood. When Cantona lost self-control and assaulted an abusive spectator, he wore that dreadful black kit. This time he was in the proper colour, a veritable pinstriped in red, the player handed the captain's armband when Steve Bruce had to go off to have 14 stitches inserted in his gashed forehead, the result of meeting the elbow of Dean Holdsworth. But that only emphasised that United are such a big club compared to the remarkable family affair that is Wimbledon.

Wimbledon have had seven senior players under the surgeon's knife this season. Though they were angels on the field against United, they have previously compounded this loss with suspensions to Earle, Ekeolu and Harford. A lesser team, a club of lesser spirit, would have folded even

more easily under a United team that regained second place in the FA Cup Premier League with this victory. United have won on five out of their past six visits to this inaccessible south London club. The victory seemed assured in the four minutes before half-time when Cole, still seeming a misfit on a wavelength different from his colleagues, rose to head the first goal from Irwin's cross, and then Perry, the Wimbledon defender, added an own goal.

That description is harsh on Perry. First, the goal should be claimed by Beckham, whose tremendous free kick defeated Sullivan, the goalkeeper, crashed down from the crossbar, and appeared to cross the line. When it rebounded, Perry did indeed head it back into his own net but the force used in his back by Keane should have made his resultant misfortune irrelevant.

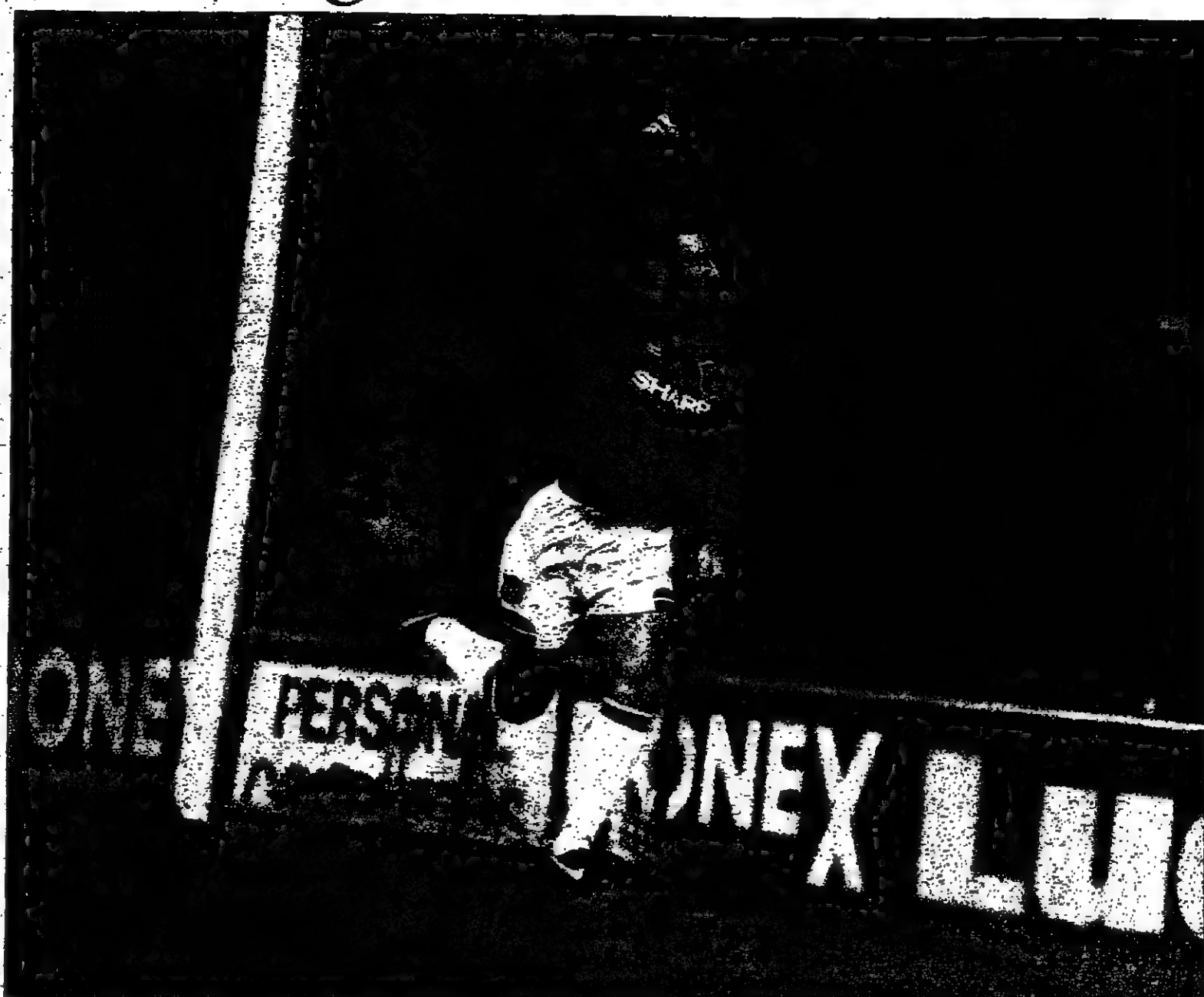
Kinnear admitted that his Wimbledon was a strangely submissive one before half-time. Once he had hectoring them about their natural principles, the up-and-at-em esprit de corps, they came out running, redefined as a 4-2-4 attacking unit.

Initially, it seemed, United could repel them at their ease, particularly with Gary Neville, the England right back, proving such a perceptive reader of the game at centre back.

Complacency crept in, however, and perseverance from Wimbledon was rewarded when Clarke chased a lost ball, Kimble put it back into the United goalmouth and Gayle slid in to half-volley the ball past Schmeichel.

Then came Cantona's denouement. Three minutes after Wimbledon's goal he engineered and scored with a level of class that will live in the memory. He and Beckham exchanged passes up the right that were beyond the scope of Wimbledon, passes that ultimately led to a headed goal as Cantona scooped to meet the ball, ignoring the raised boot of Perry.

Behind the goal, where the majority of the 15,000 United supporters in an attendance of



Cantona acknowledges the acclaim of his admirers at Selhurst Park after scoring his first goal against Wimbledon. Photograph: Marc Aspland

25,380, were ecstatic, the police reacted as if in fear that the dreaded London supporter who had caused Cantona's moment of madness in 1995 had returned. Not so: the three supporters were friendly and admiring.

Wimbledon, however, were not inclined to retaliate. They hit back in the proper manner when Keane sold his goalkeeper short with a poorly

timed header and Jason Euell — the next Ian Wright, according to Kinnear — stole between them to make the score 3-2. Inevitably, though, Cantona had the final sting.

Giggs began the counter-attack with breathtaking pace. Cole, for once, produced a measured return pass that Cantona brought down from shoulder height and Giggs, involved again, hit the ball

against Cunningham. It appeared to be handled involuntarily but the referee said it was a penalty and there was nothing to question about the imperious nature, the nerveless relish, with which Cantona despatched the ball from the penalty spot.

All that remained was the rancour surrounding the absence of Vinnie Jones. Kinnear says it is the parting of the

ways, that Jones, once the embodiment of Wimbledon camaraderie, insists on leaving. "The Secret Squirrel" mob," said Kinnear, referring to agents, "have been at work again. They and small fry (as he called Barry Fry, the Birmingham City manager), are trying to take Jones away behind my back. He can go but I've made it clear that £300,000 is a desirous figure."

The Uniteds of this world can take the points from Selhurst Park, but nobody is going to steal Wimbledon players on the cheap.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N. Sullivan — K. Cunningham, C. Perry, A. Reeves, A. Kimble — N. Ashley (sub: J. Goodman, T. Turner), T. Abbott, O. Leachman, M. Gayle, S. Holdsworth (sub: J. Euell, T. A. Clarke).

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): S. Schmeichel — D. Irwin, S. Bruce, J. Beckham, S. Keane, N. Butt, L. Sharpe — E. Cantona — A. Cole.

Referee: R. Davies

Newcastle cancel Wednesday's insurance

Newcastle United 2
Sheffield Wednesday 0

By PETER BALL

THIRTEEN is lucky for some. With Sheffield Wednesday providing supine opposition on Saturday, Newcastle United were able to avoid the consequences of a halting performance, goals from Les Ferdinand and Lee Clark ensuring that the Premiership leaders' 100 per cent home record now stretches to 13 matches.

But until the goals, an unduly affair was in danger of going down as the game of the three-taken throw-in. A bad pitch and Paul Danson, the referee, offered as much hindrance to the leaders' progress as Wednesday. "We had to cope with an awful referee

today, both sides did," David Platt, the Wednesday manager, said.

Of the referee more later: but Platt knew that Danson's performance, disturbing as it was, made no difference to the final result. "I think we made them work for it, it wasn't one of their champagne days in terms of football," Platt claimed, and with Nicol sitting in front of the back four, there was a tangled green thicket set up for Newcastle to penetrate. But as an attacking force Wednesday were dire — in 90 minutes Strickland had to make one serious save, from Bright.

Wednesday's better performance were all in the back. Above all there was Des Walker. The sight of him moving smoothly into cover, drive to get out of trouble with a burst of speed brought

memories flooding back of the days when the chant "you'll never beat Des Walker" resounded round the football grounds of England.

It is sometimes said that one of the England team's problems is that there are no good central defenders. While Walker continues to play so well in such a poor side, that is nonsense. "He's an insurance policy," Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, said. "With that pace of his, he's the perfect cover. Nobody else would have got back to Les Ferdinand that time."

But if Walker made the saving tackle of the match as Ferdinand bore down on goal, and Wednesday's packed defence ensured there were holes in the way of several shots, for much of the time Newcastle's problems were self-inflicted.

And then there was Danson, who held centre stage from the moment early on when the ball went out just inside the Newcastle half. Barton edged forward and edged forward, finally taking the throw five yards into Wednesday's half. Foul throw for taking it from the wrong place.

Nolan picked the ball up, studiously refused to look at the referee, now gesticulating furiously at the right place, and threw it in from the same spot. Foul throw — and high free. But if Danson was being pedantic, he was not wrong, as they say in those parts.

His later actions were less comprehensible. Afternoon just beat Gillespie in one tackle by a fraction. Afternoon got his foot in first and nicked the ball away, as Gillespie, who was going at full tilt in pursuit,

arrived and caught Afternoon. No malice involved — indeed at the pace, it was unavoidable. But Danson got out the yellow card.

If that suggested that he is a referee who knows the rules, but doesn't know the game, it paled beside a later decision as Watts, on a foray forward, went past Beresford and was sent crashing with an embarrassingly clumsy tackle. Knowing Danson's reputation, everyone looked at one another nervously. A yellow card seemed the least Beresford could expect. Danson gave a goal kick.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-1-1): P. Smith — M. Breen, S. Gray, P. Abbott, J. Beresford — S. Watson, R. Lee, L. Clark, K. Gillespie (sub: P. Nelson, S. Gray) — P. Beresford — L. Ferdinand.

Referee: P. Danson

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE					
	Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form	
1 Newcastle	24	57	+28	LWWW	
2 Manchester Utd	24	46	+10	WWWW	
3 Liverpool	25	46	+10	WWWW	
4 Aston Villa	24	44	+10	WWWW	
5 Tottenham	25	42	+9	LWWL	
6 Blackburn	25	41	+13	WDWWW	
7 Nottingham	25	40	+1	LWLWL	
8 Chelsea	25	39	+6	WDWW	
9 Arsenal	25	38	+8	LLWL	
10 Everton	25	37	+9	LWDWD	
11 Leeds	25	36	-3	DWLL	
12 Middlesbrough	25	35	-5	LLLL	
13 West Ham	24	29	-9	LLWWW	
14 Sheffield Wed	24	28	-5	LWDL	
15 Southampton	25	25	-11	DLWD	
16 Manchester City	25	24	-18	WLDDW	
17 Wimbledon	25	24	-15	WLWL	
18 Coventry	25	21	-17	DLDL	
19 QPR	25	18	-20	LLLL	
20 Bolton	25	18	-25	LLWL	

Weekly change Up Stayed the same Down

Starlets not ready to confront big boys

Charlton Athletic 0
Crystal Palace 0

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

THE Valley is alive with expectation. Charlton Athletic lie second in the Endleigh Insurance League first division and Alan Curtisley, their manager, has signed an extended contract — as have Stuart, Newton and Robinson, some of his highly-prized starlets. The solitary spectre at the prospect of playing in the FA Cup Premier League next season. While it would prove a glamorous and exciting experience — and nobody could deny them the right if they maintain their present position — it is unlikely that it would be too rewarding. Charlton are not yet ready to compete with the big boys on a regular basis, for all their blossoming talent, and a scruffy stalemate against Crystal Palace yesterday only emphasised the yawning gap between Endleigh and Premiership pastures.

Promising approach play proliferated, from both sides, but much of it came to naught, with the final touch glaringly absent. Pitcher cleared off the line from a goal-bound shot by Bowyer in the first half and Dyer drove weakly at Salmon in the 85th minute, when it

appeared easier to slot the ball past him, and thus the game remained goalless.

Charlton were also denied what appeared to be the most undeniable of penalty awards in the final minute, when Dyer removed the legs from under a Middlesbrough — astonishingly — to get away with it. Everybody bar Rodger Gifford, the referee, and his linesmen agreed that Dyer should have been penalised. "It was a penalty," Curtisley said. "I've seen the replay and they got it wrong. That's the way it goes."

Though Ray Lewington, Palace's first-team coach, shared the same opinion, he was more concerned with the apparent interference of Ron Noades, his chairman, in team selection policy at Selhurst Park. "I want us to pass the ball and play football," Lewington said. "Ron feels we're playing the wrong system but I've refused to change it." Brave man.

Palace did try to play football and Charlton did, too. In flurries, it was pleasing to watch, but it was still light years away from the Premiership.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): M. Salmon — J. Newton, S. Bowyer, P. Morrison, S. Newton — S. Newton, L. Bowyer, P. Morrison, S. Newton — C. Leighton, K. Grant (sub: D. Whyte, T. Smith).

Referee: R. Davies

Import duty taxes Brolin

Aston Villa 3
Leeds United 0

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

TOMAS BROLIN cut a lonely, disillusioned figure, looking the steps on to the team coach at Villa Park. That Leeds United had slumped to a comprehensive FA Cup Premier League defeat was irrelevant; it was the fact that he had not played, despite nine of his team-mates being unavailable, that had necessitated the embarrassed imitation of a humble apprentice.

Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, forced his £4.5 million Swede into temporary exile. After only two months in England Brolin had been consigned to the role of baggage carrier. "I was left out, it's very disappointing," he said. "It's the manager's decision, he wanted the team to play a certain way. Perhaps he doesn't think I'm good enough. I need time to fit in but I can't if I'm not playing."

Ominously, Brolin, 24, then contemplated the wider implications, in the comforting knowledge that he or his streetwise agent had insisted on a get-out clause in the deal that had taken him from Parma to Elland Road. "At the end of the season, I have to decide whether I'm staying or not," he said. "I cannot see into the future. The decision has to be made in May but

there is enough time between now and then to consider things."

There, in a hideous nutshell, is the dilemma facing English clubs and their managers. They pay the earth for imported talent, in transfer fees and wages, and agree to almost anything in the contract, as long as the pampered player is content and the buying supporters placated. Yet at the hint of a disagreement, when team selection contradicts all the well-intentioned guarantees, the superstar pleads disenchantment.

Wilkinson maintained a defiant, prickly stance. "I had nine players out and it was a question of seeing who was available and where I could play them," he said. "I thought the team would do better without Tomas. He was concerned at the amount of defending he would have to



Brolin exiled

do and he said he might not be too good at it. I made the decision and he accepted it."

As insults go, Brolin received the ultimate. His place was effectively taken by Alan Maybury, 17, a first-year trainee from Dublin making his debut. That he was taken off at half-time, and replaced by Tinkler, 21, only added to Brolin's displeasure. He could not even make the substitutes' bench.

Would he have made a difference? Probably not. Yorkie, of Aston Villa, possesses all the ingredients of a modern-day striker. He teels wide when needed, defends when possible and displays a keen eye for a goal, as demonstrated in the twelfth and 22nd minutes.

Villa's recovery from the 2-0 midweek defeat against Liverpool — confirmed by Wright's goal in the second half — was thus swift. However, Brolin's omission, and subsequent reaction, was more significant. Has not the Premiership's obsession with continental players, and its bowing and scraping to their excessive demands, reached overload? Kinsman yesterday, Brolin today, Asprilla tomorrow? Beware strangers bearing gifts.

ASTON VILLA (5-3-2): M. Boudry — G. Southey, P. McGovern, S. Thornton — C. Clarke, I. Taylor, M. Dwyer, A. Townsend (sub: S. Parnell, S. Wright, A. Wright) — D. Vellios.

Referee: R. Davies

Neal's passion stirs Cardiff revival hopes

Cardiff City 3
Doncaster Rovers 2

By PAT GIBSON

ANYONE wanting to know why such a distinguished footballer as Phil Neal should put his reputation on the line running such a rundown club as Cardiff City received the answer not long into his first match as their manager.

Colin Cramb, the Doncaster Rovers striker, was trying to keep a high ball in play near the halfway line when he found himself being challenged for possession by a tracksuited figure who had leapt from the dugout with designs of his own.

"I was going to show them how it is done," an embarrassed Neal explained, reminding us of his glory days as a Liverpool full back when he won eight league championship winners' medals, eight more in European cup competitions and 50 England caps.

"I thought I would bring the ball down dead and get a rapturous round of applause but their player beat me to it. Instead I got a kicking off from the referee who said: 'You are not in the Premier League now. Sit down.'"

It would have been hard for him not to realise where he was, however. Ninian Park was an aerie place on Saturday with just 2,313 dotted

around a stadium which once held more than 60,000 for an England v Wales match.

Not that Neal noticed. He was just delighted to be back in the game 11 months after he was required to leave Coventry City when they were in a healthier Premiership position than they are now.

He does not underestimate the size of his task in raising a once Welsh giant, which was not so much sleeping as comatose, but at least he has made a start with a victory which lifted Cardiff three places up the Endleigh Insurance League third division.

It had taken him only a week to transmit some of his passion for football to the players, none of them showing it more than Carl Dale, who scored a brilliant hat-trick with finishing which was worthy of a higher division. "He is like Ian Rush at this level," Neal said of the diminutive Dale, 29, who has scored 24 goals this season.

Neal was not so impressed with a defence which had nobody like Alan Hansen, however, to prevent them from conceding two sloppy goals from right wing corners to Jones and Colombeau.

CARDIFF CITY (4-2-2): D. Williams — H. Fleming, L. Jernham, S. Baskley, D. Scott — A. Scott, P. Harding, S. Young, J. Gardner — C. Dale (sub: S. Parnell, S. Wright), A. Phillips.

Referee: M. Preece

Falkirk's signings pay quick dividend for Lambie

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

IN a competition with so limited a membership as the Bell's Scottish League premier division, failure is always near at hand. Since it features only ten clubs, there is no gentle stretch of mid-table pastureland in which teams can calmly live out their days in safety and obscurity.

Heart of Midlothian, for instance, fought relegation a year ago and, early this season, seemed set for a re-match. Recent form has, however, brought six victories in seven games and sped them into third place. The superiority of the Old Firm is entrenched, but the standards of the remainder of the division only cover a narrow span.

In consequence, small improvements in a side can have dramatic consequences. Equally, it is always a short journey to the relegation zone. Last season Falkirk entertained thoughts of qualifying for Europe. Now, they are set by a dread of tumbling out of the premier division.

The upheavals and reversals of fortune exist by design, since the premier division was created, in 1974, expressly to create a greater number of significant matches. The haunted demeanour of virtually every manager testifies to the relevance of the games.

The tumult, though, can be repellent as well as engrossing. John Lambie, the Falkirk manager, has alleged that a supporter tried to drive him off the road as he made his way home after the shaming defeat by Stenhousemuir in the Scottish Cup on Tuesday. The driver in question then identified himself and claimed that he had "only" been trying to gesture and yell at Lambie.

The manager has become accustomed to abuse of late, even though it is usually delivered while he is stationary on the bench at Brockville. Falkirk are second bottom of the premier division, but lowly league positions and even relegation are hardly novelities. Much more grave are the accusations he faces over a deterioration of style.

Lambie replaced Jim Jefferies, now with Hearts, last summer in an appointment viewed with misgivings even at the time. Patrick Thistle had been sustained in the premier division for three years under Lambie, but there was little affection for the manner in which his teams played.

At Brockville he has also been blamed for consorting the team he inherited from Jefferies. Rumbustiousness, however, will, for the moment, be tolerated if it leads Falkirk to safety. After the embarrassment against Stenhousemuir, the squad held discussions that may have cleared the air only after first turning it blue. Despite falling behind to Kilmarnock on Saturday, Falkirk eventually won 4-2.

In addition, Lambie had the satisfaction of seeing both players he signed on Wednesday, Tony Finnigan and Dominic Iorfa, score on their debuts. If there was respite for him, though, torment elsewhere continued as before. Hibernian, after a 2-1 defeat at Celtic Park, have now recorded just one victory in the past ten matches. Alex Miller's team, who had broken out of prolonged defending to take the lead, have cause to grumble about the outcome.

When Pierre van Hooijdonk scored the equaliser, Jim Leighton, the Hibernian goalkeeper, was off the field receiving treatment. An outfield player, Darren Jackson, deputising for him, fumbled the ball to allow Celtic to score. The game, however, persistently flirted with the bizarre.

When Leighton first tried to return to the pitch, Sandy Roy, the referee, stopped him because his cut was still bleeding, but Jackson had already taken his goalkeeper's jersey off and come to the halfway line. The official then restarted the game with nobody between the posts, but as Celtic prepared to score, a linesman stopped play.

Paul McStay, who later scored the winner, reported that the linesman had raised his flag because the goalkeeper was not in place. "That's a new rule to me," he said wryly. If Scottish football is a grave business, it still manages to be ludicrous on occasion.

Guilt is first hazard on round-the-world voyage

BY JAMES CAPSTICK

SURVIVAL as a round-the-world amateur yachtsman will require me to face up to and acknowledge the dangers of what I am about to do, even the naivety of my original decision, but then forget all that and get on with it. My defence for participating in the BT Global Challenge Race which starts in September fluctuates between the flippant — it seemed like a good idea at the time — and the profound: it is exactly what I have waited for all my life, or at least since becoming a "thirtysomething".

I used this argument to justify the serious business of abandoning my family for nine months, re-mortgaging the house, selling the car and attracting unwanted attention from the bank manager. I have come to terms with my persistent guilt about all this,

thanks mainly to my long-suffering wife, Tracey, who actually understands me — a rare and sometimes dangerous thing that a woman who understands a man. Our two boys — Stephen, ten, and Christopher, seven — will be in good hands.

For me, the recent crew announcements at the Boat Show in London changed what had been an abstract idea into an imminent reality. Having enjoyed an impromptu get-together on the Guinness stand and a bit of "bawling" at the BT Global Challenge crew reception, I was feeling quite mellow and at peace with my fellow yachtsmen.

As the announcement of crews neared, I found myself looking at my fellow would-be circumnavigators, not with admiration and humility, but fear and trepidation. I have enjoyed sailing with many of

WHEN Chay Blyth announced the BT Global Challenge two years ago, he had 6,000 applicants for 165 places on the 1996 fleet, each of which cost the successful entrant £18,750. The Times reserved two berths — one for a man and one for a woman — and offered bursaries towards their costs and the chance to write about their experiences in the paper.

Readers were asked to submit an essay on why they wanted to take part in a tough yacht race against the

BT
Global Challenge
THE TIMES

prevailing winds and currents. Anyone aged between 21 and 60 was eligible. From 2,687 entrants, 12 were selected for a training weekend to decide who should fill the

berths. James Capstick, a 37-year-old Surrey police officer, and Lucy Duncan, a 35-year-old Nottingham midwife, were chosen.

The race starts from Southampton in September, when the fleet of 67-foot yachts under the guidance of professional skippers, sets sail for Rio de Janeiro at the start of a 30,000-mile adventure, which will take the crews round Cape Horn and across the dangerous Southern Ocean. The finish is at Southampton in June 1997.



Capstick: epic journey

At last, the moment of truth arrived as Chay Blyth and the overhead projection told us our teams and that I was to crew on Ocean Rover. I have only sailed with one or two of my new crew before and while enjoying a small glass of wine and a chicken leg at a local

hotel courtesy of Ocean Rover, we had an opportunity for a chat.

I am sure we were all sizing one another up, making instant and probably false judgments about each other's strength and weaknesses. I had a weather eye open,

searching the horizon for the "brains" who will navigate us around the world, obviously avoiding the doldrums and the rough bits, or repair the engine with nothing more than an old washing-up bottle, some sticky-back plastic and the tongue out of a deck shoe.

The easiest to spot are the potential foredeck gorillas — they tend to have a glassy, faraway look in their eyes and are often accompanied by "helpers" in a long, white coat. Necessary sailing skills can be taught; Challenge Business (the organisers of the race) have proved that beyond doubt, but it is something else to change a personality and, on our trip, you cannot run or hide. You pray you will not let yourself, or more importantly, anyone else down.

The sponsor, the Rover Group, is totally committed to the project and that is going to be very important. With the amount of support and backing the boat will have, winning should be the easy part. Undoubtedly the most important person on board has to be the skipper. Ocean Rover's Paul Bennett is very competitive and if anyone can get us first over the winning line next

year, he can. However, my wife did question my unflappable confidence in him when late that night, after the crew announcements, she turned out to pick Paul and myself up from a railway station somewhere in darkest Surrey, as a result of a navigational error between Earls Court and Waterloo station.

What next? Sitting here, attempting to write my first piece for *The Times*, I am suddenly reminded of a past feeling of trepidation. As a young police constable sitting in a Crown Court waiting room to give evidence for the first time, I remember being wound up by the old sweats who had done it all before. It would send a shiver down my spine as they solemnly explained how "your every word will be put under the microscope and examined, son".

Sailing the sun and ocean has its attractions.

Undeclared 'one-punch wonder' from Liverpool has look of a champion

Powerhouse Neary makes his mark

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

BOXING may have found a new Colin Jones. Since the Welshman, who twice came close to lifting the world title retired some ten years ago, the sport has been waiting for a puncher from the lower divisions who can take out an opponent with one blow. Shea Neary, a little-known light-welterweight from Liverpool, could be just such a man. Unbeaten in 16 outings, he has demolished 15 of his opponents in quick time.

The last man to feel the power of his fist was Terry Southerland, of Cincinnati. Southerland was knocked out in the second round of their bout at Everton Park Sports Centre on Saturday. The American, who has boxed against some top opponents, had been on the floor only once in his 22-bout career. He had lost two bouts and one of those defeats was at the hands of Kelsie Banks, the Olympic champion.

"He is very strong," Southerland said. "No one has hit me so hard. I boxed well at the outset but got careless and he was able to capitalise on where I missed. That's a good fighter. He stacks up well against the fighters I have met."

There is little doubt that the "Shamrock Express" is on course to lift the British and European titles. His manager, John Hyland, believes there is not a light-welterweight in Britain to stop him.

Charlie Atkinson, the boxing adviser to Central Television, said: "They keep running from him. You have seen something special. When he wants to take a man out he takes them out. He'll make a hole in those London guys."

Atkinson was right. Just before the end of the first round, Neary, who had been outboxed, suffered a cut by his eye. Tony Green, the referee told him: "I'm going to stop you at the end of this round."



Neary traps Southerland on the ropes before unleashing another powerful attack on the American in their light-welterweight bout

Neary replied: "I'll stop it first."

True to his word, he trapped Southerland against the ropes and unleashed a right. It landed on the American's chin and deposited him flat on his back. Gary Newton, head of sport at Central Television, was delighted. As ITV was looking for new talent, he had decided to check out the one-punch wonder.

Newton said: "Neary is a

really exciting fighter, like a white Nigel Benn. We picked Southerland. Promoters have always discussed opponents with me, but this time I told Hyland: 'If you are prepared to let us find the opponent, we'll put him on'. We knew Southerland was good. But it might have gone on longer if Neary hadn't been cut."

Having turned professional at 23 after leaving the Army and without much amateur

experience, Neary is still a little raw. But he has a Tyson-like search-and-destroy determination and if he can adopt the Tyson head movements, he could become a good world-title prospect.

Atkinson believes, however, that it is his rawness that makes him exciting to watch and, no doubt, if he carries on knocking them over he will get high viewer ratings.

Britain's latest heavyweight

hope, Matthew Ellis looks destined to have as colourful and exciting a career as Billy Walker, some 30 years ago — but he could prove more successful. On the undercard, he knocked out Laurent Rouze, of France, in one round. Rouze was not much of an opponent, but this was only the first professional appearance of the Amateur Boxing Association heavyweight champion. Nonetheless, it was

possible to see that the 1st 10lb six-footer from Blackpool is, unlike so many other British heavyweights, light on his feet and has quick hands. Most important, he is able to put combinations together.

He floored Rouze with a four-punch sequence. As Reg Gutteridge, the commentator, said about the French milkman: "Milkmen get up early, but this one's not going to make this round."

Runcorn buried by latest Hayles storm

BY WALTER GAMMIE

RUNCORN must be heartily sick of the sight of Barry Hayles of Stevenage Borough. He scored three times against them in November when Stevenage won 8-0 at Canal Street and precipitated the departure of John Carroll from the Runcorn management. On Saturday, he crashed in another hat-trick against Runcorn as Stevenage won the return match at Broadhall Way 4-1.

The victory lifted Stevenage to within a point of Macclesfield Town at the top of the Vauxhall Conference with two matches in hand, and makes Hayles an even hotter property. Signed from Willesden Hawkeye, the Spartan League club, 18 months ago, Hayles has now scored 15 league goals in his attacking midfield role.

With Macclesfield's match against Northwich Victoria postponed, further heaping news for Stevenage came from Kingfield where Woking were held to a 1-1 draw by Bromsgrove Rovers. Despite losing ground at the head of the table, Woking could draw consolation from preserving an unbeaten home that started in December 1994 even though they were without five regulars.

A crowd of 2,481 were drawn for the opening of the new stand that has brought Woking's stadium the A grading it needs to make it acceptable for the Endsleigh Insurance League. The shadow over Stevenage's success is

that they are not yet in a position to press ahead and take their ground up to standard and would be unable to win promotion if they went on to win the title.

Paul Fairclough, the manager, said: "It's frustrating but you can judge our response by the fact that when we were told of the decision, our next fixture was that game at Runcorn. Whatever competition you play in, whatever level you play at, you go flat out to win. That's human nature."

Lee Hughes scored the day's second hat-trick as Kidderminster Harriers beat Dagenham and Redbridge 5-1. Telford United's 2-1 win at Slough left Dagenham isolated at the foot of the table.

Canvey Island, of the Ics League, reached the quarter-finals of the FA Carlsberg Vase by coming from behind to beat Thamesmead 2-1 with an 89th-minute goal by Gary Brimell in a fifth-round match played at Slade Green's ground, the Small Glen, yesterday.

Thamesmead, a Winston-lead Kent League side who do not pay their players, had already knocked out Arlesley Town, the holders, and shocked Canvey by taking the lead through Dean Burns in the first half. Andy Jones brought Canvey level after Dermot Gallagher, the Premiership referee, had awarded a penalty for a foul on the striker in the 77th minute.

Desire makes crucial difference

Rob Hughes watches South Africa add another trophy to burgeoning collection

Mark Williams, a player struggling to make any impression with Wolverhampton Wanderers, shared Saturday in Soweto with Nelson Mandela, whose mark to history is indelible. Williams, purchased by Graham Taylor as a £300,000 Wolves reserve, came off the substitutes' bench to score twice in two minutes so that South Africa could break the obduracy of Tunisia and add the African Nations' Cup to the rugby and cricket triumphs in the new South Africa's list of sporting achievements. Those, President Mandela believes, symbolise more than anything else the quest for unity after apartheid.

The South Africans were not the most talented footballers on their continent, but they beat the best teams by a series of advantages — by the huge, predominantly black support, by 1,763 metres of altitude, by obliging refereeing (though not in the final which was well refereed by the Ugandan, Charles Masmabe). Above all, they had an advantage named desire.

"It's just from feelings," Williams, 28, had said before the kick-off "the feeling inside us players for South Africa."

Feelings indeed. It appeared instinct that thrust Williams forward to powerfully head the first goal moments after he had taken the field. In the stands, surrounded at last by many hundreds of white faces in the crowd that once again at Soccer City well exceeded the official capacity of 80,000, President

Mandela was like a child lifted from his seat. Indeed Winnie Mandela — for once under the same roof as her estranged husband — was also in a celebratory dance, though there was no coming together as a pair, and not likely to be a reconciliation given the connotation that

young football and Winnie Mandela have in the nation. Barely had either of them sat down than Doctor Khumalo, whose free kick created the first goal, found the wavelength for a second time of Williams. Once again the nerve, the aim and the accuracy of the substitute



President Mandela and King Goodwill Zwelithini wave to the crowd before the African Nations Cup final

breached the hitherto blanket defence of the Tunisians.

The temperature was rising towards 30C, the team that has now re-christened itself from *Bafana Bafana* (The Boys) to *Mandela's Rainbow Warriors*, was on a high, and fate had rounded South Africa's circle, victory with the oval ball of the Afrikaners, had come to mean the same thing to the once divided populace.

Possibly the most naive question of the day had come from a broadcaster who asked whether Mandela could spare the time from politics to attend the final. These games are politics.

As Mandela stepped down to the field, flanked by F W de Klerk and by the Zulu king, Goodwill Zwelithini, there were reverberations of the message that sport is unity in a nation which once divided sport on colour lines. Nell Tovey, the white captain whose replica shirt was worn by the black president, offered the trophy to Mandela.

Mandela kissed it briefly, touched it, and then like the grandfather he is urged Tovey and "The Boys" to take their place in the sunshine of South African celebration. They had to dance their way through the security cordon, the reality that the country still faces a difficult transition, but as their high spirits lapped the stadium, one knew that we could never separate sport from politics, nor regard playing games as a frivolous activity.

Why lowering levels may provide recipe for disaster

Brian Clarke says anglers are right to be apprehensive about the actions of water companies



Anglers have watched with dismay as the list of abstraction applications has lengthened this winter. Among the most highly publicised have been those by Yorkshire Water to take more from the rivers Wharfe and Ure and by North West Water to take more from Windermere and Ullewater, thus lowering the levels of these lakes by several feet.

Wherever significant abstraction takes place — and it is now very common — the public debate is not about the need of people to have reliable water supplies: all sensible persons recognise this need. The debate is about the responsibility of the supplier in capturing and transporting it effectively and the need for the consumer not to be profligate. Either way, the niceties of argument matter little where the real crunch comes. Mostly out of sight and away from media focus, the effect on wildlife when water is drawn down, is the same.

Naturalists and conservationists everywhere are concerned about the threats posed by additional abstraction. No group, though, is more concerned than the anglers. Anglers are concerned not just with the fish which provide their sport but with the health of the whole aquatic environment. Their legal arm, the Anglers' Conservation Association, has pursued hundreds of offending organisations through the courts and carried many a fight to the High Court, to make the point. Those who fish, perhaps above all, know that when a river sickens or dies, it is a terrible thing.

The pattern, if abstraction anywhere is overdue, is broadly the same. It is seen at its most graphic on rivers, especially the bright, clean rivers in which fish such as trout can live; and it becomes most apparent in the context of the natural cycle which all rivers have.

Rivers depend for their flows on rain. Most rain falls in winter, least in summer and rivers rise and fall as a result. All life in rivers is governed by the seasonal fluctuations and has evolved to cope with them. It is for this reason that abstraction even in winter, when rivers are not at their lowest, can be damaging.

Trout have evolved so that they spawn in winter, when an adequate supply of water is naturally available. They spawn by digging scoops in the stream-bed gravel, deposit their eggs in the scoops and then cover them over with more gravel.

The spawning places are where the flow is normally of such a pace that the water keeps the eggs free of silt and washed with oxygen. These spawning places tend to be in feeder streams, or in the shallower parts of the main river, or in places where springs well up strongly through a river bed.

If the water level is drawn down after the eggs have been laid — usually in January — the spawning beds can become silted through lack of flow. If the level is drawn down sufficiently, spawning

beds can be left high and dry. The first loss of fish life occurs. The hatching of the young trout in February or March is timed to coincide with the emergence of the specialised, tiny aquatic insects which small trout eat. These insects, likewise, have evolved to live in places not usually dried out in winter and so the populations of these insects, and the food available for the youngest and most vulnerable fish, is reduced. More deaths.

In summer, the beds of healthy streams are a mass of insect life. These insects provide the food of all fish, large and small. Caddis flies are typical. Tiny caddis larvae build small stone cases around themselves, for protection. When they are ready to pupate before hatching, these larvae attach their cases to larger stones and seal up the end — in much the same way as a caterpillar shuts itself in a chrysalis before emerging as a butterfly. Pupating caddis flies, unattached as they are to stones, are immobile. As the river shrinks to unnatural levels because of abstraction, countless caddis cases can be exposed to the drying summer sun. It is the same with the nymphs of insects which live on the surface of stones in fast water. As flows drop beyond the rate which these insects can tolerate, so these

populations also are reduced or lost. So are the nymphs and larvae of other insects that live in some weeds. As flows fall beyond the point which these weeds need to thrive, so the weeds die and the habitat of dependent creatures is lost. The deadly downward spiral steepens.

Less water not only equals less food, but less space. All trout need food and cover and, like the wild animals on the bank above, they will fight to get what they need. The fry that have survived the perils of the spawning beds begin to compete among themselves for space and the weakest are driven away to places in which they cannot support themselves. Still more loss.

The larger fish congregate in the deepest pools and again competition occurs because the reduced currents in such places cannot feed all the fish now packed in them. Again, the smaller and weaker of the larger fish are driven away to places that will not sustain them and further mortalities occur. The small fry which find their way near their larger, hungry cousins find themselves on the menu. The big fish left gathered in the pools become easier prey for herons and cormorants and poachers.

And so it continues and steadily gets worse. The arguments rage over who or what is to blame. The casual camera points at the surface, but cannot see through it.

And yet anglers see it in close-up and understand. It is no wonder they are filled with apprehension, no wonder they watch and fight and sue as they do. It is a terrible thing when a river sickens or dies.

□ Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Elbief, Henderson Administration Group, Mid Wynd Investment Trust, US Smaller Companies Investment Trust, Waste Management International.
 Finals: Fleming Cleverhouse.
 Economic statistics: UK housing starts and completions (December), UK M0 narrow money supply.

TOMORROW

Interims: BSKyB, Howard Holdings.
 Finals: French Property Trust, Gardiner Group, Pepsico, Yeoman Investment Trust.
 Economic statistics: UK industrial production (December).

WEDNESDAY

Interims: BAA (Q3), Betacom, Excalibur Group.
 Finals: Amicable Smaller Enterprise, Continental Assets Trust, Continental Foods, Goodyear, Murray European Investment Trust, SKF.
 Economic statistics: UK monthly monetary meeting, UK cyclical indicators (January), US trade deficit (November), Confederation of British Industry regional trends survey.

THURSDAY

Interims: Amsted, British Telecom (Q3), Wyfield Group, Westminster Healthcare.
 Finals: Colgate-Palmolive, Edinburgh Java Trust, Ericsson, Gartmore Emerging Pacific, P&P.
 Economic statistics: none scheduled.

FRIDAY

Interims: Compel Group.
 Finals: Heavtree Brewery, Nightlight.
 Economic statistics: CBI distributive trades survey (January).

SUNDAY TIPS

Sunday Telegraph: Bay Frederick Cooper, Limit, Hicox Select, CLM, Sell Standard Chartered. The Mail On Sunday: Bay Merchant Retail Group, Main and Overseas, Hold WPP, Aegis, Independent On Sunday: Bay Games Workshop, Sell Sainsbury, Perpetual, Cassidy Brothers, Airtrax. The Sunday Times: Bay Williams Holdings, Bloomsbury, MKT, Hold Bardon, Sell Border TV, Observer: Sell Tomkins, BP, Shell.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

OFT poser for BSKyB watchers

BSKyB: When analysts converge on the group tomorrow to discuss its half-year figures, the main topic of conversation is likely to revolve around the Office of Fair Trading investigation into its competitive position in the television subscription market.

As far as brokers are concerned, the outcome of the inquiry is crucial in establishing the long-term prospects of BSKyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*. NatWest Securities, the broker, maintains that the group's claim to have bilateral political support has been damaged by Labour Party concern relating to the exclusive screening rights of major sports events and control of encryption technology. It says that BSKyB's current rating makes it vulnerable to any unfavourable regulatory decision.

Even so, tomorrow's figures should make impressive reading. The group has already indicated that its second-quarter performance will be a virtual repeat of the first quarter, which saw pre-tax profits double to £51 million. Brokers are looking for the first six months to show profits surging from £63.3 million to about £106 million.

Meanwhile, the group will concentrate on its joint programming venture with Granada and its entry into pay-per-view television with Frank Bruno's fight against Mike Tyson next month.

BRITISH TELECOM: Third-quarter figures on Thursday mark Sir Peter Bonfield's debut as chairman. While the group's performance will be under close scrutiny, much of the emphasis will be placed on what Sir Peter has to say about regulatory matters overhanging the group and the future direction of the company.

Estimates for pre-tax profits range from £741 million to £800 million, compared with £660 million last time. However, the improvement will stem as much from a drop in redundancy charges as any increase in profits at the operating level, which may even show a small decline.



Man for all seasons: Sam Chisholm, chief executive of BSKyB, has encountered concern over sports coverage

The installation of business lines is likely to have remained buoyant but the number of domestic connections will probably have continued to decline.

The real focus of attention will be on the regulatory situation. BT remains at odds with OfTel, the industry regulator, and there is no sign of the problems between the two sides being resolved.

OfTel is expected to make

known its final licence modifications by May, with BT allowed until the end of July for consultation before either accepting them or referring the whole matter to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

BAA: In spite of increased competition from the likes of Eurostar, and the Channel link, the number of passengers passing through the

group's departure lounges and duty free shops shows encouraging growth.

This augurs well for third-quarter figures to be announced on Wednesday, which should reveal pre-tax profits 11 per cent higher at £361 million and a healthy growth in earnings per share of 2.8p to 26.3p.

After a sluggish start to the current financial year, traffic growth picked up towards the

end of 1995, with the group boasting a better than expected rise of almost 6 per cent. This was in spite of increased competition and a dull charter market.

NatWest Securities, the broker, is looking for an increase of 4.3 per cent, to £304 million, in revenues from airport charges, partly reflecting the rebalancing of peak and off-peak charges.

The inquiry into a fifth

terminal at Heathrow continues to rumble on and is unlikely to be concluded until next year at the earliest. But the five-yearly review of operations, which sees the Civil Aviation Authority setting airport charges, should be finished at the end of October.

WASTE MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL: Full-year figures on Friday are unlikely to make pleasant reading, but hopes are high that they will prove to be a turning point in the group's fortunes. Brokers are bracing themselves for a drop in pre-tax profits of about £20 million to £145 million.

The group gave a clear indication of the extent of the damages back in December, when it said that provisions accompanying the figures were likely to reach £123 million. This arguably took some of the steam out of the situation as far as the market was concerned.

Much of the problem stems from its Hazwaste division, which bore the brunt of last year's writedowns. France has been a particularly annoying thorn in the group's side, struggling to come to terms with overcapacity.

The WMI management is now taking steps to reduce costs and cap overheads at £150 million a year. A total of 300 senior and middle managers will lose their jobs.

DALGETY: Brokers will be looking for evidence of how the integration of its Quaker Foods European pet food operation is bedding down when the company unveils half-year figures on Monday.

Quaker Foods was acquired last year for £442 million and is expected to have performed well, with the Felix label grabbing market share from Dalgety's own home-based pet food operation.

That aside, the group continues to struggle in its main home market, where trading conditions remain difficult. Pre-tax profits for the first six months are expected to fall short of last year's £60.9 million, with City estimates pitched at between £47 million and £55 million.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Spotlight falls on industrial output

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

ATTENTION will focus this week on Britain's industrial output figures for December, due to be published tomorrow. Evidence so far, including last week's Purchasing Managers' Index, suggests that production remains flat and economists are predicting nothing more than a 0.3 per cent rise in manufacturing output, which would give a year-on-year rise of 0.9 per cent.

Total industrial production is forecast to rise 0.4 to 0.6 per cent, boosted slightly by North Sea oil and gas output, which would mean an annual rise of about 1.5 to 1.7 per cent.

Retail sales, by contrast, have been more positive of late and January M0 money supply figures, due today, and the CBI's trades survey for January, out on Friday, will indicate whether the improved trend has continued. Forecasts for M0 were in the range of minus 0.6 to plus 1.0 per cent, according to MMS International, equal to a year-on-year rise of 5.5 to 7.2 per cent.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, the Bank Governor, meet on Wednesday for their regular monthly meeting, but after producing a surprise base rate cut last time, no change is expected for a while, probably until rates start falling in Europe.

In France, the CGT trade union federation is calling for further protests this week. A Bank of France council meeting planned for Thursday is unlikely to result in any French rate cuts.

Figures from Germany this week include December manufacturing orders, while US data will include the November trade balance for goods and services, today, and December consumer credit, on Wednesday.

Scottish Life chases expatriate market

By MARIANNE CURPHEY AND CAROLINE MERRELL

SCOTTISH LIFE will tomorrow follow in the footsteps of its fellow life offices in Edinburgh by creating an offshore joint venture aimed at expatriates. Its partner in the venture will be Kleinwort Benson, the investment bank. It is under-

stood the operation will be headed by John Allison of Ivory & Sims, who helped launch TrustLink, I&S's first venture into retail investment. The venture, based in Dublin, will be known as Scottish Life International. Mr Allison

will be marketing director and is expected to be joined by Rick May and Mike Richardson, two former senior Clerical Medical & General managers.

Mr Allison left Ivory & Sims last week after two years as

managing director of TrustLink to be replaced by Richard Ramsey, I&S marketing director. Scottish Life refused to confirm the launch of the offshore venture and would only say it was "looking at all possibilities".

Germans to pay £180m for Lloyd's building

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

LOYD'S OF LONDON'S City headquarters has been bought by Despa, a German property fund, after beating bids from three rivals. The price for the ten-year-old building is about £180 million, £20 million below building cost.

The Lime Street property has been unofficially for sale since last May, when plans were approved to sell it, but has been on the market since December. Prudential is believed to have been one of the firms interested in bidding for it, but Despa made an offer on January 31.

A spokesman for Lloyd's yesterday said that contracts had been exchanged and the sale would go ahead either today or tomorrow after all 18 members of the Council of Members had been contacted and had given their approval.

The money raised will go towards the insurance market's proposed £2.8 billion settlement for loss-making names. Lloyd's will lease back the building for 25 years, paying about £30 per sq ft.

The purchase confirms the growing dominance of the Germans in the UK property market. Despa already owns a number of buildings in the centre of London, including Hill House in Little New Street and 171 Victoria Street, let to John Lewis, the retailer.

Lloyd's said it had secured "a good deal" on the property, but still has to pay for maintenance and repairs on the controversial glass and steel building. Despa is expected to make a 6 per cent return on its investment.



Eat out for a fiver

DINING IS always a pleasure, but with *The Times* Eat Out For £5 offer it is also affordable and with over 400 restaurants to choose from, there is something to suit everyone's taste. From the north of Scotland to the coast of Cornwall, you can sample the cuisine of the nation's top chefs for a fraction of what you would normally pay. From more than 400 restaurants participating all are offering lunch for £5, but many are also offering dinner for £5. The majority are offering a two course menu, some are offering as many as three courses for only £5 and some offer a one course £5 menu. To apply cut out the vouchers which are appearing in *The Times*. The first is printed below and more will appear daily until Saturday, February 17.

Each voucher entitles you and up to five companions to dine at the participating restaurants featured in today's *Eat Out For £5* guide. The more vouchers you collect, the more restaurants you may dine in. All bookings and inquiries should be made by phone to the restaurant and you must mention *The Times* Eat Out For £5 offer when you make your booking. You must present your voucher when you arrive at the restaurant. The offer is available from February 12 until March 31, 1996 inclusive. Full terms and conditions are published in the guide.

If you did not get a copy of "Eat Out For £5" in *The Times* today, please call 0171 782 7155 to receive a copy.

This voucher entitles the bearer and up to five guests to a one, two or three course meal for £5 each at any one of the participating restaurants in *The Times* Eat out for £5 guide.

CONDITIONS OF USE

Reservations must be made in advance and the voucher presented on arrival. The offer applies to the Eat out for £5 menu only at applicable sittings for up to six people. One, two or three courses apply as specified in the guide. Where less than three courses are offered, starters and desserts can be selected from the main menu and the appropriate price must be paid. This offer applies to food only - drinks must be purchased separately. Where no drinks are purchased, restaurants may charge a discretionary £2 per person cover charge. The offer is valid from February 12 until March 31, 1996. Refer to the guide for full details, days available and whether lunch or dinner is being offered.

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WATERFORD CRYSTAL

Martin Waller on why the cold snap left customers hot under the collar

Is British Gas Service losing control?

For a few days after Christmas, while most of the country was leafing through *Della* for yet another use for cold turkey, a select band of householders had more pressing priorities. These priorities were raising the ambient temperature in their living rooms to above freezing and the public dismemberment of David Wells and his team.

For that brief period, Mr Wells was probably the most unpopular man in the UK — the managing director of British Gas's newly demerged service business. Fat cat utility bosses are at their least loved when their utility is not even delivering the goods — as Yorkshire Water has found out — and the service side was failing its customers in their thousands.

In October, British Gas increased the price of its three-star service contract to more than £100 in some areas. That contract is designed to offer peace of mind by guaranteeing same-day service and repair if the fault is reported by 7.30 in the evening. Within a month of the price rise, as this newspaper was the first to note, customers whose heating or hot water failed were discovering that the guarantee could not be relied upon.

The sudden cold snap meant gas engineers were too busy in some parts of the country even to guarantee arrival on any given day. Customers who had thought they were insured were waiting for days in sub-zero temperatures, with no quarter granted to the sick, the old or those with young children.

It got worse. The long freeze over Christmas and the New Year again caught out British Gas, particularly in Scotland, where the weather was appalling, and in the South East region that had borne the brunt of the earlier problems. Worse still, the tabloids were onto the problem.

"The vast majority of people who have contacted us over Christmas would have got a same-day call," Mr Wells insists. The statistics show that in December 86 per



The heat is on: David Wells, managing director, admits that British Gas Service failed to deliver the goods during the recent bad weather

cent of calls were responded to on the same day, although this is a long way below the 95 per cent achieved in the same month of 1994.

But the statistics mask huge regional variations and the fact that most of the trouble came at the end of the month. In the worst-affected area, West London, the December average fell to little better than two thirds. The response rate during the worst weather is unlikely to have topped 50 per cent, and on some days it could have been much lower.

Mr Wells insists that the causes of this misery were twofold. There was significantly worse weather than anyone

had seen for five years, and his service operation is in the middle of an unprecedented reorganisation programme.

The old regional structure of 90-odd administrative sectors is coming down to seven areas. The workforce is falling from 25,500 in 1994 to a projected 10,000 in 1999, although some of the losses will be redeployed in Transco, British Gas's transportation business. The number of premises British Gas Service operates from will fall from 422 to just 11.

The service business was hived off in March 1994 as British Gas prepared for full competition in the domestic supply market, a trial of which

is now just months away. "It was quite clear that at least the gas supply part had to have a clean profit and loss account to compete against new competitors," says Mr Wells. "That meant the service activities had to stand on their own two feet as well."

The process of separation was imperfect, he admits. "We knew that it was going to be a struggle. We knew we would have a problem in keeping the eye wholly on the ball. We have fallen short in some respects but it hasn't been from want of trying." As part of the reorganisation, Service

has pulled out of some unprofitable areas, such as domestic cooker repairs and tendered work for local authorities, and put in a raft of new computer systems. These market withdrawals account for the bulk of the engineers lost, says Mr Wells. "For our core activities, we don't have any fewer engineers than we did two years ago," he says.

Other innovations are a gizmo developed with Panasonic — a CD-Rom field terminal carried by engineers that diagnoses faults on heating systems and can be used by the engineer to order any part needed — and a new store in Leicester that will carry 97

to 98 per cent of all parts now used in domestic systems. The aim is that if the engineer does not carry the necessary part, as he should do in 65 per cent of visits, these will be supplied by the next day.

The problem is that all these systems are not yet in place, but are being rolled out piecemeal over the next year. By next winter the whole lot should be operational, but this will not help customers who suffer in any further cold snaps this winter. "People here are focused on getting through the rest of the winter in one piece," Mr Wells admits.

The worry is that the well-publicised disasters will mean

customers will not take out further service contracts as they come up for annual renewal. British Gas Service has about three million such customers, four fifths of the market, but there are plenty of hungry competitors, some of whom are already touting for business.

Bob Frazer, head of operations, is equally candid about the disasters of this winter and the danger that the chaos will continue. Conditions in Scotland, he says, were "almost unprecedented. Whenever we get that sort of weather we're going to have trouble."

In the South East, he admits, his regional offices were not giving priority where they should, to contract customers and the sick or elderly, or those with young children. "Our managers out there were changing the priorities. They were under pressure from customers."

"If people were shouting loud enough, on-demand customers (those who had not taken out service contracts) were getting priority over contract customers. I think it was because of the pressure our people were getting over the telephones."

The offending contracts, which came in a bewildering variety of forms because of the earlier regional structure, are being redrafted as a single document. The final wording is not yet settled, but it is likely to emphasise that same-day service cannot be relied on in all cases, where conditions are exceptionally bad or demand is especially heavy.

"We're not looking to find a form of words that will let us off the hook with our customers. We're looking to provide same-day service for anyone who calls before 7.30 in the evening," says Mr Frazer.

The central question is whether next winter, with all the improvements in place, will be better than this one for British Gas Service customers. "It's got to be," both men say in unison. Mr Wells adds: "We will go down the tubes as a business if it isn't."

Borrie supports watchdog reform

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LORD BORRIE, the former Director-General of Fair Trading, calls today for the scrapping of the current system of utility regulation in favour of a single regulatory commission.

His support for a single regulatory body follows similar calls from Sir Bryan Carsberg, his successor at the Office of Fair Trading, and from the all-party Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee.

While Labour is pledged to bring in a single regulatory body, government ministers insist it would be inappropriate to maintain that the current system, including the separate maintenance of the OFT and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, should be sustained.

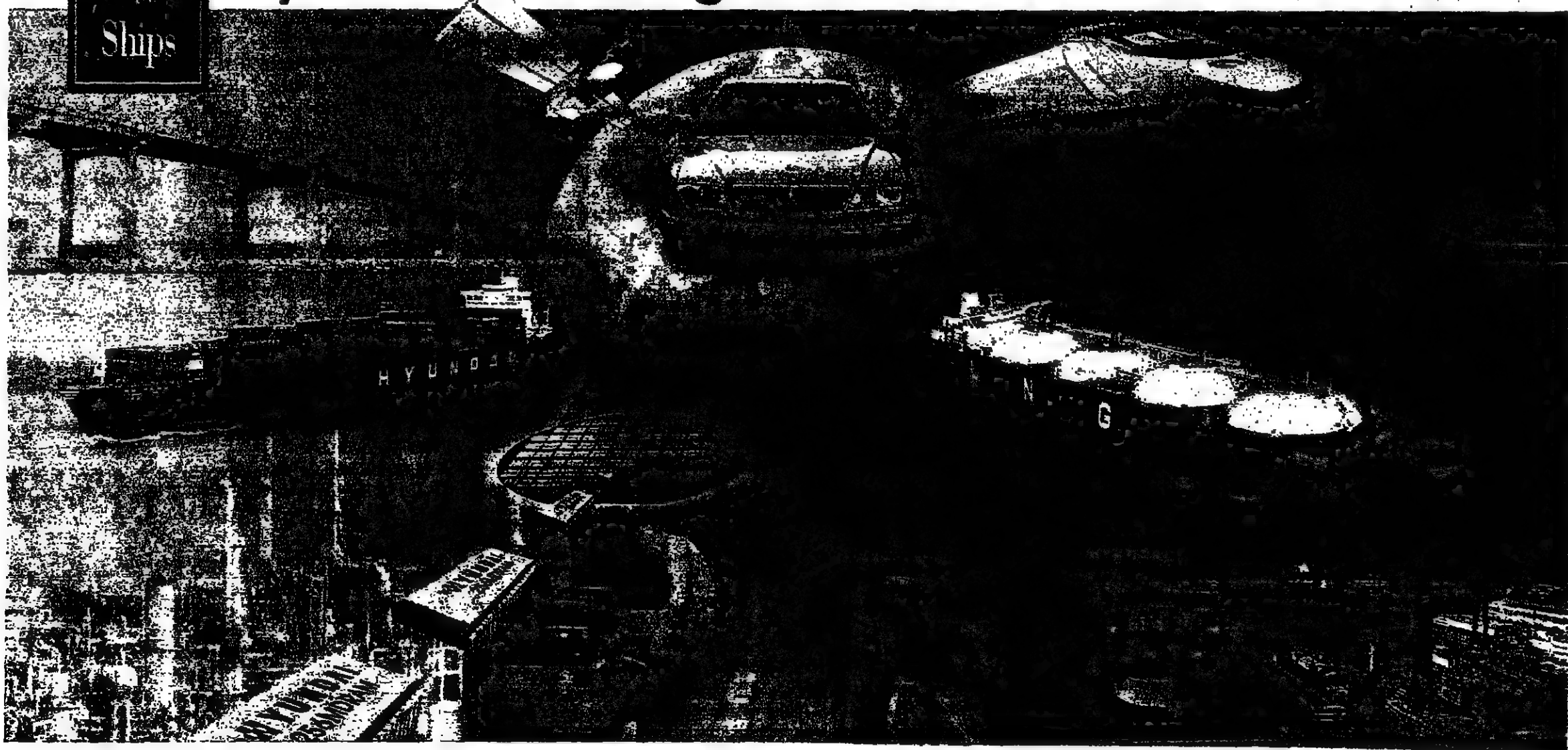
Writing to the Commission on the Regulation of Privatised Utilities, an inquiry set up by the Hansard Society and European Policy Forum pressure groups, Lord Borrie says that regulation of the utilities would be strengthened if a new Regulatory Commission was created with industry-specific component divisions.

Lord Borrie, a former head of Labour's Social Justice Commission, says: "Several objectives of the regulators are common. Let them gain strength by being brought together."

Some industry regulators have attracted sharp criticism for their actions, but Lord Borrie says that, under a single regulatory body, there would be a "check on individual excess or waywardness".

The former OFT head also supports the idea that more mergers of regulated utilities ought to be subject to mandatory reference to the MMC — especially those crossing different industries.

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ol?

Inflationary fears appear misplaced

Under the planned changes, PPP healthcare foundation limited, a charitable foundation, will be created. It will have the same board and appointed members as the old PPP.

Alongside the charitable foundation, PPP will set up PPP healthcare medical trust, a medical charity. The foundation will initially own 100 per cent of PPP healthcare group. Each of its businesses will operate as 100 per cent-owned

As interest rates fall, one would expect some, but not

GERARD LYONS
DKB International

Team spirit: Bethan Raggatt, left, and Sue Carr, the British Women's 470 sailing team at this year's Olympics, with Nigel Rudd, of Williams Holdings, which owns Yale, their sponsor

The fund, which will have a minimum \$50,000 investment, will have a Sharia supervisory board to ensure that the diversified portfolio of international equities will conform with Islamic law. For example, the fund will exclude companies in the gambling or alcoholic drinks sectors.

Welsh card carries no fee for the first year and is subject to an annual £12 charge thereafter. More than half the people in Wales are said to want wider use of their

Last month Redwood gave warning that its overall profits would fall this year. The brick division performed especially badly with a 14 per cent

Use in areas that Australian companies may lack. In total about \$52.3 billion (£1.4 billion) will be spent on staging the Games and several big contracts have yet to be awarded.

The task force aims to focus on developing partnerships in areas such as infrastructure, design and security, where it believes British companies

18.40	A de Gruchy	13
12.90	African Gold	
4.83	Albemarle & Bd	
11.50	Alpha Orion	
37.80	Ann St Brewery	38
5.30	Ann St Cv Pl	18
78.90	Antonow	
11.70	Ask Central	
1.05	Athelney Trust	

6.28	Ballymacray	1
4.62	Baris Hldgs	4
4.03	Beltismo	4
0.90	Browness Lala	14
	Bown Lets Co Pl	7
5.02	Brancote Hldgs	5
36.80	Broctbank	31
0.94	CCI Hldgs	11
0.13	CCI Founder Shs	11
0.00	CCI Founders	11

3.00	Cable Inits	10
7.95	Calendorman Tot	7
13.50	Card Clear	8
3.72	Cassidy Bros	8
1.87	Cavendish W F	4
5.28	Calendorman Comm	

5.28	Insurance Group	
17.50	Celtic	675
	Celtic Pl Shts	675
15.80	CI Comms(TV)	71
7.25	Charwell Int'l	8

13.10	Club Partners	3
12.20	Com de Pri Fan	51
7.59	Conster Tst	3
11.10	Country Gdns	6
2.57	Crtry Gdns Pl	7

35 60	Greco Intl	9
14 60	Crown Products	5
11 20	DBS Management	16
3.58	David Glass	6
51 70	Dawson Hires	11

3.50	Dean Corp	- 1
14.30	Drumtek	7
102.20	Electrophonics Intl	15
5.62	Euro Sales Fn	12
	Enbridge	2

3.18	Finl Publs	13
20.00	Finland	16
6.12	Floral St	26
5.51	Florence	21

15.80	Formosan	15
4.75	Furlong Homes	9
26.70	Gander Hds	
5.40	Greentails	1
33.00	Gutten	14

3.67	Hanson	3
56.80	Hiscox Ded Ins	12
10.90	Indpl Radio	10
14.70	Inner Workings	8

22.00	Ind Greetings	52
3.67	Jasmin	9
18.80	Jennings Bros	20
41.60	KS Biomedex	11
25.70	Lancashire Enterprises	14

74.90	Lawrence	23
53.70	Lawrie Group	275
46.80	Le Riches Sts	28
	Lithome As Ten	9

Figure 1. Schematic representation of the experimental design. The subjects were divided into two groups: the control group and the experimental group. The control group was exposed to the control condition, and the experimental group was exposed to the experimental condition. The subjects were then exposed to the control condition and the experimental condition in a random order. The subjects were then exposed to the control condition and the experimental condition in a random order. The subjects were then exposed to the control condition and the experimental condition in a random order.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

Mid cap (milions)	Company	Price (cents)	Why +/-	Yld %	P/E	Mid cap (milions)	Company	Price (cents)	Why +/-	Yld %	P/E
16.00	AMCO Corp	112	+ 3	8.0	12.3	29.00	Los Flacuary	3	+ 1	..	..
1.47	Abacus Recruit	29	+ 5	..	..	1.63	London Town	65	..	..	..
18.40	A de Gruyich	125	+ 5	5.8	10.4	12.30	Lorien Exp	215	+ 10	2.2	..
12.80	African Gold	12 1/2	+ 3	..	..	10.60	Marc S O'Shea	18	- 3	..	..
36.80	Albernaz & Co Bd	15	..	..	..	43.10	Megatronics	100	..	..	..
11.50	Alpha Orefram	22	+ 2	..	..	..	Megatronics Wds	85	- 7	..	..
37.80	Ann St Brewery	395	- 15	5.5	11.8	5.57	Melink	88	..	..	36.3
3.50	Ann St Cr Pl	895	..	8.9	..	277.70	Memory Corp	408	+ 50	..	..
38.80	Antebay	111	+ 3	..	..	8.04	Metrodome Films	21	..	..	..
11.70	Ask Central	73	..	..	..	14.00	Metroplex	185	+ 17	3.0	..
1.05	Attheby Trust	58	..	..	..	0.08	Almichachal	6	..	..	..
4.82	Bathmeyer	6	..	..	..	19.80	Autofield	6 1/4	..	..	..
4.62	Bark Hops	18	..	..	..	25.50	NWP Grp	340	+ 55	2.4	16.4
4.03	Belamio	..	..	..	..	..	Nash (Wm)	210	..	3.9	..
0.96	Brownes Leds	140	..	..	..	8.46	Kell Clark	575	..	2.2	16.2
5.02	Brascoe Hops	50	..	..	..	5.71	Nelson Cobbold	208	..	..	..
36.80	Brookbank	310	..	2.5	31.0	..	Norclay	70	..	..	..
0.94	CCI Hops	118	..	..	..	8.96	Nova Petm	73	..	..	..
0.13	CCI Founder Shs	10	..	..	..	0.13	Novi Petm Whts	3	..	..	..
300	Cale Inns	108	..	2.4	8.6	..	Atlanta Res Pps	70	..	..	..
7.55	Calsoncon Tst	70	- 5	..	8.5	17.80	Nursing Home	116	..	1.9	..
11.50	Card Case	60	..	..	..	11.00	Old English Pub	82	..	2.3	33.4
3.72	Cassidy Bros	68	..	5.5	9.7	5.16	Omnicast	84	- 1	2.2	..
1.87	Cavendish W F	43	..	..	21.8	10.00	Omnicredit	60	- 5	2.2	..
5.26	Celabated Group	48	..	..	..	13.70	Pacific Malt	15	..	..	..
11.50	Celtic	6750	..	..	..	..	Pacific Mtl	2	- 2	..	..
..	Celtic Pl Sls	6750	..	..	..	13.20	Pan Andean Res	32	+ 6	..	..
13.80	CI Comm(TV)	117	+ 8	2.6	15.0	4.66	Park Est(Lv)	129	..	..	..
1.25	Charwell Int	88	..	..	..	66.60	Pet City	365	- 30	..	..
12.10	ChutPartners	51	..	..	..	28.80	Polyseas Pharms	444	- 15	..	..
12.20	Com de Pl Fin	510	..	..	..	3.62	Preston Nlt E	400	..	..	..
7.35	Conster Tst	38	- 2	2.6	16.3	11.13	Revelation Pccadilly	105	..	..	..
11.10	Country Edms	60	- 1	2.5	12.4	11.20	Riceman uncs	105	..	..	..
2.57	Daily Edms Pl	70	..	9.5	..	3.38	Rushmen Wyome	74	..	..	..
16.60	Dress Int	99	- 3	..	..	0.09	Rush Wyn Whts	..	..	..	..
14.60	Crown Products	55	+ 2	..	..	11.00	SCS Satellite	98	- 20	..	..
11.20	DBS Management	165	- 10	4.5	6.7	5.12	Scotswood Inds	23	+ 3	5.6	..
2.60	Davis Grp	..	..	..	9.4	..	South Pk	280	+ 2	..	..
51.70	Dawson Hops	1130	- 20	3.4	..	13.40	Scrutons	293	..	5.8	11.4
3.50	Dean Corp	12	+ 1	..	70.2	3.21	Self Sealing	55	..	..	..
14.30	Demulak	76	..	..	..	..	Silbans	3	..	..	..
102.20	Diechrophonics Int	198	- 15	..	..	66.60	StyPharms	10	..	..	..
5.62	Euro Sales Fn	125	..	..	..	129.50	Southern Pharms	549	..	..	..
..	Estates	340	..	..	..	..	Southern Pharms	51	+ 8	3.5	15.3
3.18	Finl Pults	135	+ 20	..	..	75.30	Shandor Rock	410	- 115	..	..
20.00	Fincomex	158	- 12	..	73.1	14.90	Survey Fr Inns	148	+ 8	17	17.3
8.12	Floral St	283	+ 8	0.5	19.5	42.60	TRACER Hwtik	86	- 30	..	..
5.51	Flornova	215	..	..	..	5.15	Tale Cndt Exp	51	..	..	..
15.80	Formosan	150	- 10	1.7	18.8	..	Tale Cndt Whts	805	..	..	..
4.75	Furlong Homes	95	+ 2	3.2	5.1	17.30	Toad	103	- 5	..	..
26.70	Gander Hops	9 1/4	+ 2	..	78.9	..	Trinity Care	180	..	1.0	..
5.40	Greenhills	18	+ 1	..	..	..	Trinity Care Pl	165	..	..	..
32.40	Gulster	145	..	3.4	13.1	228.00	Truadeco	54	+ 2	..	..
3.67	Hanson	36	- 2	..	..	..	Univest	40	..	..	..
56.80	Hecox Dad Inns	125	..	0.3	..	8.15	Utd Auctions	626	..	1.1	..
10.90	Indpl Radio	108	..	..	..	..	VNC	435	+ 20	..	..
44.70	Insur Warrings	88	..	..	..	35.70	Versailles Grp	13 1/2	..	..	22.0
22.00	Intl Seedlings	523	+ 20	1.2	..	..	Vivient	200	+ 25	..	..
5.67	Jasmin	90	- 11	..	..	..	Waco	232	..	..	..
18.80	Jennings Bros	200	- 5	2.7	20.6	..	Woolburns Sals	12	- 1	..	..
41.60	KS Bomardr	110	- 5	..	..	..	Wood Sacs Whts	5	..	..	..
14.50	Laneshaw Enterprises	142	+ 2	3.6	..	4.90	Western Sealein	14	..	..	55.7
14.30	Lemuel	235	..	0.8	..	2.91	Westmont Engy	81	+ 5	..	..
5.70	Lewis Group	2750	..	3.2	14.0	6.76	Wheeler Jr Wld	81	+ 3	..	..
46.90	Le Riches Sars	282	+ 2	6.8	27.6	..	Wynnsay Ppps	145	..	..	..
..	Lithome As Ten	95	..	..	..	26.30	Zargo	285	- 5	..	..

The mysterious attraction of detective series

Sunday nights will not be the same again — or not, at least, for a long time. Most of you, I know, will be mourning the passing of the hugely popular *A Touch of Frost* (TV), which ended last night. But not me. Jack Frost, I am afraid to say, has always left me cold.

This indifference has three points of origin: a fact which, I realise, will be of similar indifference to the 17 million people who have watched in the last five weekends. But in the interests of stimulating debate and in the vague hope that I may not be entirely alone, I shall share them with you.

First, there is David Jason's neo-familiar performance as Frost, a policeman who has somehow inherited all the mannerisms of Del Trotter, but unfortunately none of the charm. Then there is Frost himself, an old-fashioned copper who believes in old-fashioned coppering — results first,

evidence later — and if someone can be bullied into a confession... well, so much the better.

The third objection is more of an irritation. It irritates me that the success of the series will once again vindicate ITV's low-risk, high-return approach to popular drama — stick the right star in just about anything and we'll watch it. Which is why we'll be watching Nick Berry, Robbie Coltrane and Jason until the Larkin cows come home. Now there's something to look forward to.

But having shared that, let us return to last night, which saw the series sign off with a story that not only contained some unplanned but unfortunate echoes from real life (pretty female students, stalkers, long-distance drivers among the suspects) but also bore a passing resemblance to a story from the last series of *Cracker*. But fair's fair — as far as I can recall, Fitz's crazed campus killer didn't

have a thing about mermaids, I'm sure I would have remembered. Frost's killer, however, did, which led to some memorable dialogue as the net closed: "If you son is a fruit-cake, Mrs Jarvis, I need to know about it."

But for all the shortcomings of a disjointed story (not to mention the strange disappearance of an entire subplot), I wouldn't have missed Jonathan Hyde for anything. Hyde is such a supremely sinister actor that he is nearly always cast as a red herring. But as Dr Keith Michaelson, the denim-shirted Larkie of the psychology department, he reached new heights.

Not only had he sexually harassed the victim just before she was pushed down the stairs, but his long-suffering wife attempted suicide the next day. Then, just when Frost broke into his office and

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

discovered Michaelson was the author of... *VIOLENT DEATH*, a huge volume with a title in helpful, easy-to-read block capitals. Did he do it? Don't be silly.

Last night also saw the last *Pie in the Sky* (BBC1), the passing of which really is reason for mourning. It took me a series or so to get used to Richard Griffiths's brilliantly understated performance as DI Henry Crabbe, the reluctant

policeman and part-time restaurateur, but now I am addicted.

Of course, the series bears absolutely no resemblance to real life, which is part of its Sunday night charm. Fresh from his triumph of nabbing the garden gnome gang last weekend, Crabbe spent last night hot on the trail of two Russian car thieves, which if nothing else provided an excuse for some good subtle jokes.

Bearing as it does, no relation to real life, this improbably robust policeman spends his life surrounded by improbably attractive women — at home by his wife Margaret (Maggie Stead) and the ever faithful Nicola (Samantha Janus) and at work by DS Cambridge (Bella Emehoro), whose wardrobe could never be described as "plain-clothes". All three give lovely performances, with Stead injecting the required steel to lift the restaurant end of things. At the police end those duties fall

to Malcolm Sinclair, who plays assistant chief constable Freddy Fisher. Sinclair provides the perfect foil for Griffiths, with a performance that teeters on the edge of parody, but never actually crosses it. His task was made easier last night by the arrival of Phyllis Logan who, as the ambitious but accident-prone Detective Superintendent Chalmers, cleverly consigned Lady Jane and *Lowkey* to history. She was almost unrecognisable which, unless you are David Jason, is generally a good thing.

But undoubtedly the pick of the weekend's detectives was Wexford in *The Ruth Rendell Mysteries*, *Simisola* (ITV, Friday). Not having read Rendell's original, I don't know whether it is she or Alan Plater, its adapter, who should take the credit for a quite beautifully crafted script. It may wear its social

conscience rather too openly on its sleeve for some, but the moment when Wexford (George Baker), the great white liberal of the Kingsmarkham constabulary, fell into the "all black people look the same" trap was exquisitely constructed. This being Rendell, it was the "all black people look the same" trap, but the point was well made.

The latest Wexford is also technically outstanding, with precisely framed photography, meticulous sound (offices echo in that depressing way they do) and music that is used sparingly but creatively. With the story two-thirds done, two questions remain. Who or what is *Simisola* and why is one of the main suspects probably the prettiest jobcentre claims clerk you'll find this side of *Pie in the Sky*? But perhaps her looks are integral to the plot.

• Lynne Truss is on holiday

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (60292)

7.00am BBC Breakfast News (91563)

9.00am Breakfast News Extra (424936)

9.20am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (332020)

9.45am Killy (7099874)

10.30am Good Morning with Anne and Nick (74327) 12.00 News (Ceelex) (811211)

2.05pm Turnabout (s) (9675679)

2.30pm Going for a Song (229298)

1.00pm One O'Clock News (94650)

1.30pm Regional News and Weather (7708476)

1.40pm Neighbours (s) (3458583)

2.00pm Pebble Mill (s) (9664414) 2.40pm The Rockford Files (s) (4143898)

3.30pm The Busy World of Richard Scarry (s) (7070766) 3.55pm Badger and Badger (s) (1595553) 4.10pm Chimpunks Go to the Movies (s) (6073211) 4.35pm (Ceelex) (s) The Gents from Down Under (7410767) 5.00pm Newsround (Ceelex) (784777) 5.10pm Blue Peter (Ceelex) (1188777)

5.30pm Neighbours (s) (Ceelex) (s) (907056)

N.I.: 5.30pm Inside Out (s) (1650)

6.00pm One O'Clock News (Ceelex) (414)

6.30pm Regional News magazines (768) N.I.: 6.30pm Neighbours 6.57pm Inside Out News

7.00pm Noel's Telly Years: Noel Edmonds presents the television nostalgia quiz. The year in question is 1984, when Gordon Kaye first said "Allo! Allo!", Tessa Sanderson won an Olympic gold medal, Keith Barron starred in *Duty Free*, and Chris Sieve plunged in at the Deep End (Ceelex) (s) (3989)

7.30pm Watchdog: Anne Robinson presents the consumer magazine (Ceelex) (s) (860)

8.00pm EastEnders: Frank's latest move creates more havoc for Pat and Roy, Robbie takes Carol shopping and David has a bone to pick with Rick (Ceelex) (s) (1124)

8.30pm Goodnight Sweetheart: Turned Out Nice Again! If there is one wartime entertainer Gary can't stand, it's George Formby. When George turns up wanting to record Gary's latest song, Gary has to find a way to keep history intact (Ceelex) (s) (1124)

9.00pm Nine O'Clock News (Ceelex) regional news and weather (2834)

9.30pm Panorama: The War on Fish. How will threatened fish stocks and fishermen survive? (Ceelex) (208211)

10.10pm Film 90 with Barry Norman: Includes a location report from the set of director Danny Boyle's *Transporters* (208200) N.I.: 10.10pm Pipes and Drums 10.50pm Film 90 11.20pm Omnibus 12.00am Film: The Beguiled 1.55pm Weather

10.40pm Omnibus: A Day on the Mountain (Ceelex) (s) (330853)

11.30pm Film: That Summer of White Roses (1989) starring Tom Conti and Susan George. A life-guard at a remote Yugoslav bathing spot finds his job under threat when he has to save a young woman. When he does rescue a drowning man he finds himself the focus of unwanted interest. Directed by Rajko Grlic (563747)

1.10am Weather (1109780) WALES: 1.35pm News headlines and weather (1109780)

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Learning for All (210853) 6.25pm Questions of Sovereignty (177129)

7.15pm See Hear Breakfast News (Ceelex and spring) (s) (8551582)

7.30pm Singing in the Rain (12058) 8.00pm Blue Peter (s) (Ceelex) (s) (80143) 8.30pm Songs of Praise from Wormwood Scrubs presented by Sir Harry Secombe (s) (Ceelex) (s) (1334414)

9.00pm Daytime on Two Educational programmes Plus, for children, 10.00pm 10.25 Playdays (5684360)

2.00pm Joshua Jones (s) (36794282)

2.10pm Snooker: The Masters. Dougie Donnelly introduces coverage of the games between Peter Ebdon and Darren Morgan and David Roe v Andy Hicks. Includes News (Ceelex), regional news and weather at 3.00pm and 3.55pm (3990788)

6.00pm Space Precinct: Futuristic police drama series created by Gary Anderson, starring Ted Shackelford, Rob Youngblood and Simone Bendix (Ceelex) (s) (349486)

6.45pm Buck Rogers in the 25th Century. Science-fiction adventure series (s) (487414)

7.30pm Hidden Empire: More Lustrous Than Gold. A drama documentary about Seilhuia, a Chinese courtesan who was instrumental in bringing peace to the Chinese Empire in the dying years. But was she a heroine of the Boxer Rebellion or a traitor to her cause? (Ceelex) (s) (282)

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TESCO SHAKES UP
DISTRIBUTION TO
MAKE HUGE SAVINGS

BUSINESS

MONDAY FEBRUARY 5 1996

CAN MARKET FORCES
ALONE KEEP
RETAILERS IN LINE?

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COON



Graham Halsall, right, his brother Alan, second right, joint managing directors of David Halsall, with John Walker, left, and Tony Hyams of BZW Private Equity Investment, which has arranged a £5.25 million capital injection to aid expansion at the toy distributor. The firm, which serves Woolworths, Toys 'R' Us, and Asda, among others has a turnover of £31 million.

Heat back on for directors at British Gas

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

INSTITUTIONAL shareholders are putting pressure on British Gas for a further boardroom shake-up that could result in the departure of Cedric Brown, the embattled chief executive.

Three non-executive directors, including Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, and Lord Walker, who was the government minister responsible for the privatisation of British Gas, are also under threat. British Gas executives are believed to be disappointed with the contribution the non-executives have made to the business, particularly Lord Walker's reluctance to consider the disposal of some assets.

British Gas, however, yesterday described the reports of internal strife as 'speculative'.

Shares have performed poorly over the past year as the company has lurched from one disaster to another. It also suffered a setback when the Government ruled out a consumer levy to enable the company to bail out of its take-or-pay gas contracts.

At the centre of the boardroom friction is the uneasy relationship between Richard Giordano, the chairman

whose three-year contract expires at the end of the year, and Mr Brown. It is understood that some shareholders have raised the spectre of blocking an extension to Mr Giordano's contract unless further reforms are made.

The recent boardroom shake-ups have been widely interpreted as bearing the stamp of Mr Giordano, leaving Mr Brown increasingly isolated as the only major remaining member of the British Gas old guard.

Roy Gardner, a contender for the chief executive's position, last month moved from financial director to take responsibility for renegotiating the take-or-pay contracts and for managing competition in the household market. Phillip Hampton was recruited from British Steel to become financial director, while John Wybrew was lured from Shell to take control of strategy planning and communications. Three other executive directors — Russell Herbert, Norman Blacker and Howard Dalton — were forced off the board last autumn.

Gas Service, page 36

Single market at risk if EMU falters, says Santer

FROM ANATOLE KALETSKY IN DAVOS

THE European single market will probably collapse early next decade if there is any delay or deviation from the Maastricht plan to create a European monetary union by January 1999, according to Jacques Santer, president of the European Commission, speaking at the weekend.

The blunt warning issued by Mr Santer, and political leaders from Germany and Belgium, reinforced the statement by Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, on Friday that European integration had become a 'question of war and peace'.

In what appeared to be a concerted campaign to suppress doubts about the Maastricht process, before they got out of hand, Mr Santer joined

Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian Prime Minister, and Wolfgang Schäuble, chairman of Germany's ruling Christian Democrat party, in saying that the creation of the single market was 'not an irreversible process'.

Speaking to an audience of senior businessmen at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, the three leaders used almost identical language to convey their stark message.

'The single market is not irreversible and those who believe that it is are mistaken,' said Herr Schäuble. 'Europe is first and foremost a political programme, not an economic programme. If we abandon what has been agreed at Maastricht, we cannot hold onto what has already been

achieved.' He added that any thought of delaying Maastricht was dangerous and counter-productive. Achieving monetary union 'is not a matter of time, it is a matter of will', he said.

Mr Dehaene's threat of protectionist barriers within Europe were even more explicit. 'My conviction is that without monetary union, the single market will not hold,' he said. 'Those who think the internal market is irreversible have illusions.'

'At the moment, we accept some of the consequences of competitive devaluations because we have the perspective of monetary union in 1999. But if we have no perspective of monetary union, countries which suffer from competitive devaluations will take measures that are completely contrary to the internal market to protect themselves.'

Mr Santer said that he fully agreed with the other two leaders' comments and added an explicit warning about the

consequences of delaying EMU beyond 1999. 'Any delay might mean that monetary union is never achieved,' he said. 'That would be a giant step backwards on the road to political union. I don't know whether the internal market would survive such a blow.'

Even Sir Leon Brittan, the European Commission vice-president, who is generally considered to be most committed to maintaining free trade, said that 'nothing in this world is irreversible' and added that 'monetary events could put pressure on the single market'.

However, in contrast to the other leaders, who said that the failure of EMU would lead to the re-erection of protectionist barriers, Sir Leon insisted that such pressures would only reinforce 'determination to defend the single market'.

Underlining the growing rift between the unqualified supporters of a single market and the European leaders who want to use it as a bargaining chip to achieve monetary union, Sir Leon said: 'The commitment to a single market is separate from the commitment to the single currency. The Commission's policy and the treaties are clear. Those countries which do not participate in monetary union are fully entitled to the benefit of the single market.'



Santer: blunt warning

Deal near on Sears shoe shops

Sears is expected to reveal tomorrow that it has sold its Saxe and Carters shoe shop chains to Stephen Hinchcliffe, the Sheffield businessman behind Facia.

The 111-strong Saxe chain and the 124 Carters stores were put up for sale by Sears early last month as the group moved to reduce the number of its shoe chains.

Hanson move

Hanson said yesterday that a special dividend was one of several options during the demerger process. Speculation is that a 12p sweetener may be added to the package.

Stadium float

Stadium Group, the engineering company, says it intends to float in the next three months to raise £10 million, giving it a market capitalisation of £30 million.

Carlton bid

Carlton, the media company behind the London and Midlands ITV franchises, is said to be preparing a £300 million bid for HTV, the Welsh company which has the West of England TV franchise.

Executive bonus overhaul urged

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

STANDARD LIFE, one of the country's leading investors, has called for a complete overhaul of executive bonuses to ensure senior managers are rewarded for 'outstanding performance not mediocrity'.

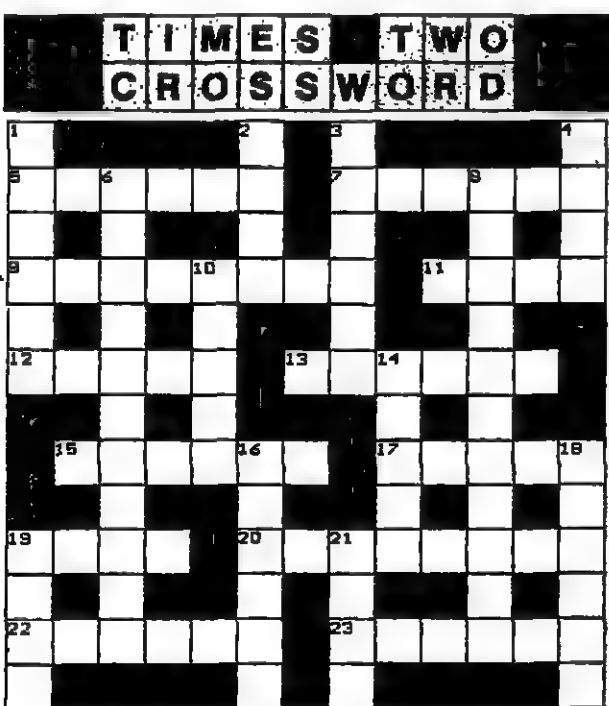
Guy Jubb, the insurer's corporate governance director, said that the directors of FT-SE 100 companies should set an example for the rest of the industry. 'We are committed to share ownership by executives but the scheme should motivate them to achieve outstanding results, not reward them for mediocrity,' he said.

Two FT-SE 100 quoted companies singled out by Standard Life are Carlton Communications, the media group in which the insurer has a 3 per cent stake, and BT. Standard Life has warned it will vote

against Carlton's plans for paying senior managers hundreds of thousands of pounds in bonuses. Selling its stake in Carlton was 'always an option', Mr Jubb added.

Michael Green, Carlton executive chairman, is understood to be in line for a £500,000 bonus on top of his basic salary of £450,000. Carlton executives could get a bonus in shares of up to 100 per cent of their basic salaries if their share price and dividends produce a total return within the top 25 of FT-SE companies over three years. Standard Life feels performance targets are too easy for the managers to achieve.

Norwich Union, which has a 3.5 per cent stake in Carlton Communications, has also expressed 'concern' over the media group's bonus plan.



No 696

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Popular music from Jamaica (6) | 1 Middleman (6) |
| 7 Wood left after sawing (6) | 2 Fund-raising entertainment (4) |
| 9 Unthinking (reaction) (4-4) | 3 Taker of bets (6) |
| 11 Tiller (arch.) headpiece (4) | 4 Stalks to stop (4) |
| 12 Vertical part of stair (5) | 6 Projection from poor data (11) |
| 13 Small, dainty (girl) (6) | 8 Dispirited (11) |
| 15 Gloomy; sombre; feeble (6) | 10 Large drinking bowl (5) |
| 17 Seaweed cast on shore (5) | 11 Wiping cloth (5) |
| 19 Catch, hitch (4) | 16 Provide; find money for (6) |
| 20 (Joke) fail to amuse (4-4) | 18 Soldier's canvas holder (6) |
| 22 Intelligent (6) | 19 Pillage; dismiss; bag (4) |
| 23 African country; old coin (6) | 21 Toboggan (4) |

SOLUTION TO NO 695
ACROSS: 1 Duck 3 Unicorn 8 Dail 9 Cup Final 11 Ci de
ocur 14 Tragic 15 Sup-go 17 Video nasty 20 Aquiline 21 Fat
22 Reckless 23 Zest
DOWN: 1 Dedicate 2 Criminal 4 Neuron 5 Off-punting
6 Marx 7 Nell 10 Penicillin 12 Apostate 13 Polyglot 16 Vernal
18 Fair 19 Hulk

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Change expected in way jobless count reported

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government appears ready to introduce a new monthly measure of unemployment after a Whitehall report urging ministers to publish the total number of people out of work in Britain. Currently it publishes the numbers that are out of work and claiming benefit.

Dr Tim Holt, director of the Central Statistical Office, is expected to reveal details of the internal CSO report on unemployment figures when he appears before MPs next week to give evidence on the Government's jobless data.

Dr Holt, the Government's chief statistician, commissioned the report when he took

over at the CSO last year after a long and bitter public argument over the validity of the Government's unemployment figures, which Labour claimed were 'fiddled'.

The report is understood to recommend publishing, in tandem with the monthly claimant count, a monthly total of the numbers out of work drawn from the Government's Labour Force Survey. Currently, the LFS — a survey of a rolling sample of 60,000 households — publishes unemployment figures, based on the internationally-acceptable International Labour Office standard, every three months. Ministers calculate that

moving to a monthly LFS could add an extra £10 million to its costs, which they claim is unjustifiable at a time of tight public spending restraints. They are also concerned that the public may be confused if two counts of unemployment are published every month. □ Long-term unemployment should be tackled by a new temporary work scheme, which would create 500,000 jobs at an annual cost of £1.7 billion, according to the Institute for Public Policy Research think-tank today. The IPPR says that the scheme would be cost-effective and would make the long-term unemployed 'stakeholders in society'.

Greener Tesco saves £12m

TONY WHITE



Clean sweep: the recycling plant at Snodland, Kent

TESCO's plan to recycle hundreds of thousands of tonnes of cardboard and plastic each year gathered momentum on Friday when the second of nine planned recycling units opens (Sarah Bagnall writes). The nine recycling service units, run by Christian Salvesen, will create 700 jobs and give Tesco annual savings of at least £12 million. On Friday Sir John Stanley, MP for Tonbridge & Malling, and Dame Peggy Fenner MP, chair of the all-party Retail Industry Group, will open the 77,000 sq ft unit at Snodland, Kent. Cardboard is crushed into 650 kg bales and sold to a recycler while shrinkwrap plastic is packed into 100 kg bales for recycling into dust-bin bags and supermarket carrier bags.

Squaring the circle, page 38

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Day One of a two-part investigation into complementary medicine

Alternative health



● Jeremy Laurance reports on the fastest-growing medical sector
● Three different approaches to the treatment of the whole person

TOMORROW

● Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the links between the NHS and complementary medicine
● The astonishing success of Chinese herbal therapies

An honest alternative, or just magic?

No one can doubt that alternative medicine works. A third of the population is estimated to have tried its remedies or visited its practitioners, and four out of five pronounce themselves satisfied with the treatment they have received.

Consumption of alternative remedies is rising faster in Britain than in any other European country. Private medical insurers are extending cover to include the main therapies and the NHS is spending at least £1 million a year on complementary practitioners. Nearly half of GPs are estimated to have referred patients for alternative treatments, and the first full-time NHS aromatherapist was recently appointed in Sheffield.

Why, then, is alternative medicine still treated with scepticism? Every profession has its share of venal practitioners. Orthodox medicine is in this respect no different from alternative medicine. But a broader, more damaging charge is laid at the door of alternative practitioners: that their enterprise is a fraud. Not medicine but magic.

The charge has made little impression on the public. Sales of herbal and homeopathic remedies and aromatherapy oils are up by a quarter since 1992 to more than £60 million, according to the market analysts, Mintel. We are still a long way behind our continental neighbours, however. Consumption is less than half that in Germany and a third of that in France, Belgium and The Netherlands.

Private medical insurers have responded to the rising demand. Bupa includes cover for acupuncture, chiropractic, homeopathy and osteopathy in all its policies, provided

PUBLIC VERDICT

referral is through a consultant. Norwich Union Health-care includes similar cover but only in its top-of-the-range Premiercare policy. The Scandinavian insurer, Ohra, allows subscribers up to 12 treatments a year at £25 a time for the same four therapies, plus medical herbalism, without a doctor's referral.

Growing demand shows that what matters to patients is results, not logic — magic is acceptable to patients if it accomplishes what is promised.

The appeal of alternative medicine is linked to the amount of time available to patients: the use of touch, the magical qualities surrounding the practitioner, and conviction in the method of healing.

Interest has been fostered by a marked softening of the previously hostile attitude shown by the medical profession. The British Medical Association, which had dismissed alternative medicine in a report in 1986 as a "passing

fashion" with no scientific basis, executed a U-turn in 1994 when it admitted large numbers of GPs had made use of it.

The increase in chronic illness, for which orthodox medicine has promised much but delivered little, has given the movement an added boost.

As a measure of alternative medicine's new respectability, the government-sponsored Health Education Authority has published an A-Z guide to 60 therapies. Some, such as yoga with more than 5,000 teachers and 500,000 adherents in Britain, are well known therapeutic aids while others, such as iridology (diagnosis from examination of the iris of the eye) are controversial.

The guide ranks treatments, using a 10-point scale, as a holistic star system. This has drawn criticism from Professor Edward Ernst of Exeter University, who claims it gives readers a false impression of their scientific standing.

The star system is based on whether scientific research on the therapy is non-existent (one star) or has been published in the best journals (four stars). But this, Professor Ernst says, does not tell us what the research showed.

"There are two very good papers on iridology published in top journals and they both say it is totally meaningless as a diagnostic procedure. Yet in the rating system iridology gets three stars."

As Britain's first Professor of Complementary Medicine, he is involved in scientific assessment. He believes that unless researchers adhere to scientific principles and publish well organised studies, they will remain on the periphery of medicine.

Most adherents of comple-



Hands on: bodywork relies on the use of touch and massage to create an overall sense of wellbeing

Starting at the feet and working upwards

HAVING your feet massaged is many people's idea of heaven, but it is also an increasingly popular form of therapy.

The ancient art of reflexology is based on the premise that the body's main organs and glands are represented on the soles of the feet, which are thus a map of what is

REFLEXOLOGY

the lymphatic system, increasing energy and eliminating toxins. Enthusiasts say they are more energised and relaxed after treatment. One-hour sessions cost around £20.

Massaging specific points works to stimulate blood circulation and

the lymphatic system, increasing energy and eliminating toxins.

Enthusiasts say they are more energised and relaxed after treatment. One-hour sessions cost around £20.

KATHRYN KNIGHT
The British Complementary Medicine Association 01242 22070.



Yoga: head-to-toe health

WHAT YOUR DOCTOR COULD PRESCRIBE INSTEAD OF TABLETS

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SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH: Anecdotal ♦♦♦ Some studies ♦♦♦♦ In the best journals ♦♦♦♦♦

Medical credibility: Scientific research

Insertion of needles to restore energy balance

Manipulation and massage for back and joint pain

Induced trance to resolve conflicts through use of suggestion

Taking therapies to relieve anxiety, phobias

Deep rhythmic breathing to lower blood pressure and heartbeat

Create sense of wellbeing that can strengthen immune system

Blent thought with rhythmic breathing. Relieves blood pressure and pain

Manipulation - more reliant on X-rays than osteopathy

Uses principle of treating like with like to trigger self-healing

Massage with aromatic plant oils. Relieves stress, pre-menstrual tension

Using plants to treat wide range of chronic illnesses

Restoring health by non-physical means

Learning how to alter your brainwaves to reduce anxiety

Alexander technique. Improving posture to improve stress-related illness

Flotation in a tank of warm salt water to treat stress, anxiety

Source: Health Education Authority guide to Complementary Medicine and Therapies

Balancing the five elements

THE elder statesman among holistic medicines is Ayurveda or Ayurvedism, the ancient Indian "science of life". First described in 1500BC in a body of literature known as the Vedas, it is becoming so popular that the General Medical Council recently agreed to recognise medical schools incorporating Vedic principles, provided their students also attain conventional qualifications.

Rather than alleviating or curing illness, the Ayurvedic blend of meditation, yoga, astrology, herbal medicine and dietary advice is a philosophy of life which aims to prevent it. According to its teachings, originally in Sanskrit, each of us is composed of five elements — fire,

THE VEDIC PRINCIPLE

water, earth, air and ether. "There are three forces through which these elements manifest themselves, called vata, pitta and kapha," says Dr Shiv Kumar, from the Ayurvedic Company of Great Britain, which has one of the largest databases on Ayurveda in the world. "Most people will be a blend of two." Ayurveda says that to keep well, we must try to maintain and optimise our natural balance of elements. It preaches that life should be governed by regularity.

There are about 100 qualified Ayurvedic practitioners in Britain, and each will go through an exhaustive diag-

nosis process with his or her patient, including a questionnaire. The pulse can be taken in as many as 12 positions, and reflexes will be tested. Detailed questions about the urine, stool, the tongue and eyes are also usual.

PANCHAKARMA, meaning "five treatments", is the name given to the format of Ayurvedic treatment, a mix of stretching, meditation, massage and herbal preparations. Another important aspect will be a food regime, tailored to each individual. As a rule, irregular meals are discouraged. Wholesome meals should be eaten calmly, fol-

lowed by a short period of contemplation. And those seeking spiritual harmony should avoid certain metropolitan restaurants — a bad-tempered cook can infuse the affair with discord.

Particularly recommended are energy-giving foods, known as *sattvic*, such as fresh fruit and vegetables (except root vegetables), whole milk, wheat-based products, rice and olive oil. Foods which sap energy, called *tamasic*, should be avoided. These include alcohol, coffee, potatoes, red meat, pickled or cured foods and cheeses.

ANJANA AHUJA
The Ayurvedic Company of Great Britain can be contacted on 0171-370 2255.

The power of touch

BODYWORK

Bodywork is all about harnessing the power of touch. It encompasses therapies such as chiropractic, osteopathy, Roling (deep massage), massage, aromatherapy, reflexology and shiatsu. The benefits are becoming more widely recognised by the medical profession — a west London hospital is researching the use of massage in the rehabilitation of stroke victims.

Dr Mario Impallomeni, consultant geriatrician at the Hammersmith Hospital, treated 12 stroke patients with "marma" massage last year, and was so encouraged that he is hoping to start a large-scale study within the next few months.

Marma massage is a feature of Ayurvedic medicine, which believes there are 107 vital points, or *marmas*, in the body. Flesh, veins, arteries, tendons, bones and joints meet up at these points. As with acupuncture, the points are thought to correspond to particular organs or functions.

The claimed effects of the therapy, which is offered by the Hale Clinic, in London, are nothing short of miraculous. "One bedridden patient could walk by the end of her treatment," says Theresa Hale.

Another hands-on therapy is manual lymph drainage (MLD). "Manipulating the lymph glands has a detoxifying effect," says Jane Martens, of the Hale Clinic.

The appeal of alternative treatments is not restricted to an eccentric elite. "We are seeing more people than ever, partly because the medical profession is beginning to recognise alternative therapies," she says. She adds that people are beginning to recognise the importance of coping with stress, and will now go for a massage without necessarily being prompted by an ailment.

Cranial osteopathy ranks highly among new treatments and is blossoming into a therapy in its own right. Osteopathy focuses on the role of bones, muscles, tendons, tissues, nerves and the spinal column, in the overall maintenance of the body.

It is used mainly on infants who have had traumatic births. Ms Martens says: "It is amazing how many parents bring their children here, and it's almost as if the kids have come here straight from the womb."

Bodywork does not have to be a reaction to illness. It can be part of a healthy lifestyle, and variations are offered at many health clubs. Champneys, in Tring, Hertfordshire, recently expanded its range of touch-based treatments by introducing an aromatherapy massage for pregnant women.

Like many other establishments, Champneys has adopted an appropriate vocabulary. As well as offering massages for the "mind, body and soul", it has introduced massages which it calls "tranquillity" and "vital energy".

ANJANA AHUJA

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How to get inside the thinking brain

Recently, in a darkened lecture theatre, I watched on a flickering screen a slow-motion video of a brain actually thinking.

For the first time, neuroscientists have access to a technique for observing the living brain which can show the millisecond by millisecond modulation of the nerves as they flash their messages to and fro between brain regions.

The technique is called magnetoencephalography (MEG), and it works by assembling an image from the tiny magnetic fields generated by the coordinated discharge of thousands of nerves. Magnetic fields, according to standard physics, always accompany

Neuroscientists can now watch the nerves flashing messages around the brain.

Dr Bruce Charlton joined the audience

electrical activity. The sister technique of MEG is therefore electroencephalography (EEG), which detects the electrical nerve discharge itself.

EEG has been around since the 1920s, and has been used as a diagnostic tool to reveal the focus of epileptic discharges, for monitoring the level of consciousness, and as a research tool. But the picture obtained from EEG is a crude, blurry

image averaged from the whole brain thickness. Interpreting nerve activity from an EEG is like trying to guess the breed of a fish using only ripples on the surface of a distant pond. By contrast, MEG can probe beneath the surface to yield a highly detailed three-dimensional view.

While the skull has considerable electrical resistance, magnetic fields pass

easily through it. But the magnetic fields involved are incredibly small — starting a car engine a mile away would be enough to swamp the signal. Therefore modern MEG needed the development of incredibly sensitive detectors (called "Squid" magnetometers), sophisticated shielding, and computer programs to eliminate background "noise" and amplify the neurally-generated field.

Three-dimensional images of the living human brain have been familiar since the invention of computerised axial tomography (CAT) scans a couple of decades ago. More recently magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) has been able to provide an even sharper focus. But

both of these methods produce static pictures. Another technique called positron emission tomography (PET) can demonstrate changes in blood flow every half minute or so, at about half a centimetre level of detail. But only MEG can provide the millisecond and millimetre power of resolution needed to detect the neural activations directly and in real time.

There are some limitations. Only certain parts of the brain can be seen, and the depths of the cerebral cortex are still out of range.

As Francis Crick has argued, future progress in neuropsychology requires entirely new methods for visualising human neuroanatomy. But until then, MEG reveals tantalising glimpses of the mind at work.

Dr Charlton is a lecturer in epidemiology and public health at Newcastle University.

In California, campaigners have fought to save a fragile eco-system, Giles Whittell reports

Wars of the waters that saved Mark Twain's lake

RUSH CREEK is one of five powerful streams that tumble down the eastern side of California's High Sierras into the ancient Mono Lake basin. As you watch the water race through a shallow canyon to the lake, it is strange and exhilarating to consider that for most of the past 50 years it never got this far. Instead it was piped 350 miles south, to be flushed down the drains of Los Angeles.

The creek's rebirth is a victory for the underdog in a long battle to save North America's oldest lake from its thirstiest metropolis. It also marks the start of a 20-year experiment to see whether a fragile and hauntingly beautiful ecosystem that was all but destroyed by man can be restored by him as well.

If the experiment works, history may thank not only the environmentalists who have made Mono Lake their cause célèbre — activists trying to save the Aral Sea in the former Soviet Union have turned to them for advice — but also an unglamorous technological innovation known as the ultra low-flow toilet.

What remains of Mono Lake lies at an altitude of more than 6,000 feet, between the sierras and the Nevada state line. It is lonely except for a tiny ancient mining village on its western shore, and quiet except for the wind. With no natural outlet its level was regulated for some 750,000 years by evaporation alone.

Before Los Angeles diverted its tributaries, Mono Lake was rich in salt and other minerals. These supported huge populations of brine shrimp and flies, which made the lake a favourite staging post for up to a million migrating water fowl each year.

Mark Twain paused here, gathering material for *Rough-*



Mark Twain (left) washed his shirts clean in the waters of Mono Lake. The tufa towers, right, calibrating the extent of the lake's disappearance, have become symbols of the fight to save it



ing It in 1872. He found that Mono Lake water left his shirt "as clean as though it had been through the abseil of a washerwoman's hands".

The lake's strangest feature is its "tufa towers" (tufa is derived from the Latin *tufus*, meaning porous). These limestone-like stalagmites — made

of calcium from the fresh water that combined with carbonates and sulphates — form over freshwater springs in the lake bed. "It's mysterious," says Geoff McQuilkin, a Mono Lake activist. "They seem to form in rings round the spring, which is then channelled up through the

developing column. The best way to think of them is as petrified springs."

Since 1940, when California's state assembly granted Los Angeles the rights to Mono Lake's entire water runoff, the water level has dropped by 41 feet and its volume has fallen by nearly

half. Its water, which tastes like the juice from a tin of clams, is now too saline to support more than a token population of brine shrimp, thanks to continued evaporation without freshwater replenishment. Numbers of migrating birds have fallen to about a hundredth of their

level in Mark Twain's time. The tufa towers, calibrating the lake's gradual disappearance, have become symbols of the fight to save it.

That fight has been peaceful compared with California's earlier water wars. In the 1920s and 30s, when the 300-mile-long Los Angeles Aqueduct was being built to carry

water south from the Owens Valley (which leads to Mono Lake), local ranchers blew it up 14 times.

Trainloads of heavily armed detectives would set out from Los Angeles to tame these frontiersmen, but no such force has been marshalled

against today's Mono Lake Committee. This shoestring group of conservationists, a David to the Goliath of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, began a 15-year campaign in 1979 to stop the diversion of Mono Lake's water.

Their first breakthrough came six years ago. Droughts in 1989 and 1990 forced new water conservation efforts in Los Angeles, including the installation of thousands of subsidised ultra low-flow lavatories which do the work of an old seven-gallon flush with a mere 1.4 gallons.

A year ago, in a decision that won it a rare standing ovation, the city's water board agreed to stop almost all diversions until the lake had risen by 18 feet. Rush Creek and its four neighbours will take 20 years to do the job and the lake will still be 25 feet lower than in 1940, but environmentalists say it will "look full". (Thanks to record snows last winter it has already risen 18 inches.)

Others grumble that saving Mono Lake has simply forced Los Angeles to buy more water from the San Francisco area — \$38 million-worth of it a year, according to one water specialist. Meanwhile, it is far from certain that the wetlands round the lake where migrating birds once nested will recover. Nor do scientists know what will happen to dry tufa towers as they are surrounded again by water; they may dissolve. Bill Hasencamp of the Department of Water and Power says: "We'll know in 20 years if it was worth it."

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Deaf children demonstrate an innate ability for language

From pidgin to creole

THE BIRTH of a new language has lent strong support to the belief that speech is inborn: a function of brain structure and not simply of acquisition by learning. The theory was first put forward in the 1950s by the American scholar Noam Chomsky, who argued that the astonishing ability of young children to learn to speak argues that language must be innate.

Linguists often despair at the loss of languages, which are disappearing at an alarming rate. But over the past 15 years they have had the opportunity to see one born, in a story reminiscent of William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. The language is ISN, or Idioma de Signos Nicaragüense, a sign language spontaneously generated by a group of congenitally deaf children in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua.

Before the Sandinista Government came to power in 1979, there was no provision for the education of deaf

children in Nicaragua. Full of good intentions, the new Government set up a school and brought children to it from all over the country. But they provided only hearing teachers, who knew no sign language.

This left the children to their own devices, rather like those in Golding's novel. They quickly developed a pidgin sign language, and successive arrivals at the school honed and polished it to

produce what Dr Judy Kegl of Rutgers University calls a truly rich language.

In one leap, the children had gone from a pidgin to what linguists call a creole. Pidgins are choppy strings of words, with no grammar and no special order. A creole has structure, grammar and consistency.

While all those who use pidgin do it differently, the creole signers are much more fluent and expressive.

They can watch a surrealist cartoon, says the linguist Stephen Pinker, and describe its plot to another child. They can use it in jokes, poems, narratives and life histories, he says — "a language has been born before our eyes".

The children appear to be a classic example of what Chomsky called "poverty of stimulus" being no block on the development of language. "These kids have been exposed to an insufficient model of language," Dr Ann Senghas of the University of Rochester Sign Language Research School told *Scientific American*, "and yet they have created something highly developed."

The natural experiment in Managua has confirmed something else. Only those children who start before the age of five really become fluent. For those who joined the school later, it is like an adult struggling to learn a foreign language — very hard work which seldom leads to complete fluency.

Navigating by the mountains

BEES navigate better in the mountains, American biologists have discovered, suggesting that they use the horizon and any striking landmarks on it to find their way back to the hive.

Dr Edward Southwick of the State University of New York and Dr Stephen Buchman of the US Agriculture Department's Bee

Research Centre in Tucson, Arizona, took bees from their hives, marked them with tiny stick-on metal tags, and released them at a range of distances away.

They report in *The American Naturalist* that in the flat area of Arizona and New York State, the bees returned successfully to the hive from distances of up to 5.6km, but on a site in the Arizona mountains they returned from as far as 9.2km. Twice as many made the journey successfully in the mountains.

The conclusion? Bees can spot prominent landmarks and set a course home, until they catch a scent of the hive.

Satellite lost and found

A SATELLITE that went missing a year ago has turned up again in the bush of northern Ghana. German and Japanese scientists who thought it had plunged to destruction in the Pacific are delighted.

The \$42 million (£28 million) Express satellite was launched on a Japanese rocket in January 1995. It went into the wrong orbit, lost

contact and crashed, to the chagrin of the scientists.

Cut to the northern Ghanaian bush, where local people later found a re-entry capsule with a parachute attached. The parachute was Russian-made and contained Cyrillic lettering, so the authorities in Ghana feared it might be radioactive. They stuffed it in a cupboard at a nearby airport.

Then a German diplomat read an article about the mystery capsule and put two and two together. A team from the German space agency has confirmed the satellite is theirs. Now all that remains is for them to get it back.

WHAT KIND OF TEACHER ARE YOU WITHOUT THE TES?

DON'T MISS PRIMARY UPDATE THIS FRIDAY

TES THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

The we who use English will no

The woman who up with English rules will not put

Tunku Varadarajan meets this year's Reith lecturer — and learns why there is no 'right' way to use our mother tongue

Professor Jean Aitchison will this year's Reith Lectures give. Does anything seem "wrong" with that sentence? Not according to the professor. She does not like it, of course — just as she would not like "Rosemary an octopus ate" or "Philip his dentures down the drain has dropped" — but she refuses, adamantly, to describe it as "wrong".

"I would call such a sentence ill-formed," she tells me. "I prefer not to speak of right or wrong English ... much better to see things as well-formed or ill-formed. Wrong is a word with too many unhelpful shades."

I venture another question. Could *The Times* have a headline that said "Harriet Harman isn't resigning"? The professor — again — says that there would be nothing "wrong" with that. That is, a perfectly clear headline, admirably clear. And since the function of a headline is to catch the attention in an intelligible way, I would have no objection to that.

Hmm ... but what would readers of *The Times* think? Would they not be agast? "Most probably, because that would not be an appropriate headline for the newspaper."

She lingers on the word "appropriate", just as she had done earlier with "ill-formed": these words are, for her, essential tools of analysis. "One has to speak appropriate language ... one addresses a baby quite differently from the way in which one addresses a bus conductor." Equally, one does not address the Queen as one would one's mother — unless the Queen is one's mother.

Professor Aitchison, brimming with this sort of good sense, is the Rupert Murdoch Professor of Language and Communication at Oxford. A linguist — or linguistician — she has chosen what she calls "The Language Web" as the subject for the Reith Lectures on the BBC. Renowned for making abstruse things simple, she welcomes the opportunity to explain her research to a wider audience. "The language of a web conveys the complexity of language, the way that it is biologically programmed in humans." But as the title of her first lecture — on air tomorrow — reveals, she believes that we are also caught in "a web of worries" about language.

"People fuss about things that are trivial ... things like split infinitives. I must confess to greatly enjoying split infinitives." She has a blast, in between sips of sancerre, against such self-appointed 18th-century "grammarians" as Robert Lowth, Bishop of London.

"They had fixed and eccentric opinions about language, and quite pompous obsessions, such as exploring the use of prepositions at the end of sentences," Professor Aitchison. In turn, she deplores these constraints that have been thrust upon us; and Lowth's *Short Introduction to English Grammar* (1762) she has described memorably in print as "pernicious" and full of "pseudo-rules".

Many of these rules were born of the excessive admiration for Latin — and of the elegance of its precepts — which prevailed at Lowth's time. Professor Aitchison read Greek and Latin at Girton College, Cambridge, before studying linguistics at Radcliffe College in America. Linguistics was then a subject "on the ascendant" and she was afraid that if she stayed in Cambridge she would have to spend all her time in the library "deciding whether the Greeks of old dropped their aitches".

Flatteringly — for hacks — she asserts that the ancient Greeks loved language in much the same way that journalists today love language. "Greek texts and modern newspapers manipulate language in the same inventive way." Ancient Greek, the professor is in no doubt, is "much clearer than Latin". Why, I asked, in the manner of one not schooled in the classics, "it's straightforward, really. They used many more verbs than the Romans did, and fewer abstract nouns ... just as modern newspapers do."

An example of the Latin method? "England's recovery was helped by Botham's strong batting." And the Greek? "Botham batted strongly and England recovered." I saw her point: a punchy, verb sentence which no Sports Desk in the land would turn its nose up at. Very journalistic ... very ancient Greek!

Her reference to Botham was a nice coincidence, for in the course of a few telephone calls to other dons at Oxford, one — who wished not to be named — described Professor Aitchison as "the Ian Botham of linguistics". He may have been referring to her popular touch — or he may have intended to be unkind. But the professor's methods are certainly colourful. Her inaugural lecture at Oxford, delivered at the venerable Examination Schools, made generous use of visual aids — many of them cartoons by Giles, some of Charlie Brown, others of Dennis the Menace.

If linguistics has a reputation for impenetrability, that is not her fault. Noam Chomsky — in many respects her inspiration, and with whose idea of the biological endowment of language she is so connected — is often dense of text and chewy of phrase. Not so our Reith lecturer. Her books are peppered with gleeful sentences such as: "In a world where humans grow old, tadpoles change into frogs, and milk turns into cheese, it would be strange if language alone remained unaltered."

How many readers would expect the second chapter of a book called *Language Change: Progress or Decay?*, published by the Cambridge University Press, to begin with sentences such as these: "A Farouse recipe in a cookbook explains how to catch a puffin before you roast it. Like a cook, a linguist studying language change must first gather together the basic ingredients."

And the chapters of her quite difficult *Words in the Mind* have such headings as "Welcome to Dictionopolis", or "Interpreting Ice-Cream Cones" or — my favourite — "What is a Bongaloo, Daddy?" What is a bongaloo indeed? Tune in tomorrow ... and maybe you will find out.



Jean Aitchison: she believes that if we used language more like Greeks — and less like Romans — we would understand one another better

THE lectures, named after the BBC's founder and first Director-General, Lord Reith, began in 1948 with lectures paid 1,000 guineas to finance research — beneficiaries have included Bertrand Russell, J.K. Galbraith and Robert Oppenheimer. By 1972, however, the fee was thought too low to finance research and it was feared that that year's lectures would be the last. The gloom was misplaced, but controversy has never been far away.

THE REITH LECTURES

There was a scandal in 1962 when a Professor Carstairs said that charity was more important than chastity, and in 1969 the American scientist Dr Frank Fraser Darling was mocked for saying deforestation and fuel emissions might melt the polar ice caps. There was panic in 1977 when Lord Boyle

pulled out at the last minute, and the following year the Bishop of Southwark gave warning that Dr Edward Norman's lectures could lead to an era of Nazism. In 1991 the lectures came under attack because 43 of the 44 previous lecturers had been men, but in 1992 the BBC failed to find a lecturer at all.

● This year's five lectures will be broadcast on Tuesday, starting tomorrow at 8.30pm on Radio 4. The Times will summarise them each Wednesday.

Who really buys those haute couture clothes?



The former Empress Bokassa, left, and Princess Firyal

So, what do you do? I asked one of New York's society ladies as we talked, leaving the Valentino fashion show. "Do!" she hedged nervously. I elucidated: "You know, a little work for charity here and there?"

"Ahh, charity ... Yes, I'm at a fundraising ball or dinner a couple of times a week." She leant forward to confide: "Well, where else would you wear all these dresses?"

It takes an American to get to the nub of the Paris haute couture shows: displays of excess barely excused by artistry or charity. Our lady of Park Avenue, Manhattan, was one of the 200 or so real people who actually still buy haute couture at \$5,000 or £10,000 a shot, as opposed to the thousands who merely go to gawp for the media.

On the rounds of the shows, it proved extraordinarily easy

to spot shoppers versus gawpers. The "200" still feel it is acceptable to wear orange and emerald green after puberty, and believe that a woman should signal her husband's wealth by weight of jewellery. Our lady of Park Avenue was wrapped in black lycra and leopard skin, with earrings like hubcaps, and diamond rings immobilising her fingers. Her friend, also a society lady, had been inserted into a curvaceous white suit, suggesting haute couture may be worth the money.

The ladies felt that Galliano at Givenchy had been "unwearable, apart from maybe two things" — unlike the fashion press — but that Valentino understood a woman's body. "I normally buy a cocktail suit or dress and some evening gowns," said Park Avenue. Asked precisely

Kate Muir meets the women who have to go to charity balls in order to wear their designer dresses

how much that would set her back, she merely laughed: "We come for the fun." The unemployed have to fill the days somehow.

The Manhattan ladies were perched on gold chairs in the "moneybags" section of the audience while the "fashion celeb" section was led by American Vogue's Anna Wintour. The "moneybags" row included Princess Firyal of Jordan, Joan Collins, a couple of vicomesses and baronnes, a Saxe-Coburg or two and an African woman in a toga. All were salivating over, as the programme put it, "the glorious certainty of wearing a unique and unrepeatable piece".

Since all the clothes, in greens and beiges like dead skin, reminded me of doilies and antimacassars, I asked the Americans for their advice. "Don't waste money on a summer suit — get that at ready-to-wear. Go for beaded eveningwear that will get noticed. Summer's difficult — everyone is so casual nowadays, and there are only so many weddings." They were keen on a silk evening dress with an enormous bustle. "Of course, you'd get him [Valentino] to take that down. That's only for the show." At these prices, the designer takes the client's advice. Despite reports of haute

couture's death, these Americans felt all was healthy. "But, darling, we miss the Eighties, don't we?" they lamented, heading for lunch.

At the Christian Lacroix show I met a velvet-covered Frenchwoman with an orange crocodile handbag who actually said "Ohh low, low," a smokier version of "Ooh la, la", when the designer's more stunning creations were paraded. She lacked the heady American vulgarity: "I come, then I think a while, then I go to see Christian."

Of course, the fact is that the haute couture shows are intended not for the shoppers but for the world media, so the YSL, Dior or Valentino brand name gets a free airing on television. In fact, Chanel held its media show after a secret viewing for personal shoppers. Either this

is because the personal shoppers like discretion, or because Chanel, and other designers, are slightly embarrassed by their clientele. The newest clients are not French aristocrats, but rich wives from Russia, Arab countries and even China, desperate to buy nobility through dress. Given the prices, the couturier cannot afford to be choosy.

This year François Lesage, the master embroiderer, completed his most complicated dress ever for Chanel — a beaded gown which took a record 1,280 hours of work. "The last customer to keep us that busy was the former Empress Bokassa for her coronation robes," he said. A couturier must be discreet. If a customer's husband, such as Emperor Bokassa, indulges in cannibalism one would certainly not mention it during Madame's fitting.

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



■ VISUAL ART

Recent work by Bridget Riley goes on show at Waddington and Karsten Schubert
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



■ JAZZ

Cleo Laine and John Dankworth make sophisticated sounds again at the Café Royal
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ THEATRE

David Storey's sporting classic, *The Changing Room*, opens at the Duke of York's
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



■ DANCE

At Covent Garden MacMillan's sexy *The Invitation* is revived with Leanne Benjamin
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

As London awaits 'the art event of the year', leading artists tell Isabel Carlisle about the enduring influence of a giant

What the genius of Cézanne means to us

GILLIAN AYRES

CÉZANNE's strong, obsessive way of seeing caused him to render nature into simplified pictorial parts and make realistic elements into more unified geometric shapes. These shapes became more like each other, and then clearly relied on their relationship. Cézanne rendered value differences, depth-illusion and surface complexity on his own passionate terms. His paintings developed so that they became their own spaces, a world of their own experience.

In 20th-century painting, the shapes came up to the surface as two-dimensional and more abstract forms, and also went easily into three-dimensional sculpture. But the implications taken from Cézanne's vision, a whole century of forms and experience let loose from Cézanne, are one thing; his own wonderful paintings are another.

ANTHONY CARO

CÉZANNE is a touchstone for artists. He is so firm and rock-like. His concern is not with turning out successful pictures but with working through his problems. In his life and work this is what every serious artist is trying to do.

I have always looked a lot at Cézanne. It used to be the organisation and the clarity of the still lifes that drew me — now, although I still delight in the still lifes and am moved by the intensity in the portraits, nevertheless I have become intrigued by the "Bathers". They are difficult pictures to come to terms with. Often they are only small, but I wish I could get results that have such power. In Cézanne's work, I don't see what one is always told his work is about — the sphere, the cube, and the cone — I see weight and I see horizontal and vertical. After the breath of air that the Impressionists gave to painting, Cézanne brought weight, substance and pressure back into his art. And that I think is the mood of artists' needs today, so for us it is an appropriate moment to have the show.

PETER DOIG

THE first Cézannes I saw were in my father's art books: poor, pale reproductions which were not very impressive to a young artist. At this point there had been so many other breakthroughs that his achievements felt like art history. The period of Cézanne and Post-Impressionism seemed to be like that of Abstract Expressionism — a real breakthrough period with plenty of open territory in which people could carve out individual inquiries. You could be an Impressionist or a Pointillist — there was a lot of stylish scope.

When you read older artists talking about Cézanne they have much stronger feelings about him. Where I was at a school, at St Martin's in the

The Cézanne exhibition which opens on Thursday at the Tate Gallery is not only set to be the art event of the year, but a reminder of what comprehensive surveys like this are for. The show will give every visitor enormous, exhilarating pleasure; but beyond that, like a well-written biography, it should encourage us to rethink our ideas about this great artist.

Cézanne is a key figure for art of this century: he was enormously influential for the art of Matisse and Picasso; he pointed the way towards Cubism; and, beyond that, to abstract art. His genius lay in achieving his declared aim of taking the art of the Impressionists and making something solid, monumental, out of it. He did this by introducing the

weight of sculpture and the forms of architecture into his paintings while still painting with pure colour. He combined the grandeur and harmony of classicism with a vibrancy and exuberance that he found in Baroque art, and in sculpture in particular. He anchored his paintings with solid, natural shapes such as Mont Sainte-Victoire, cliffs or pine trees, and then covered the canvas with brushstrokes that seem to float, and fragmented the forms into planes and colours. He was an artist of paradoxes who struggled to find resolutions in his landscapes, still lifes, portraits and wholly invented groups of naked bathers. Cézanne's vision was so original that artists still mine his paintings — if not for ideas then for the courage to dare to be different.



Cézanne by Cézanne: "A vision so original artists still mine his paintings; if not for ideas then for the courage to be different"

early 1980s, we had the tyranny of post-American Abstract Expressionism via British post-Abstract Expressionism. We were reacting against that.

I really started looking at Cézanne when I started making my paintings of buildings and architecture seen through nature. I didn't want any dominance given to nature or architecture or sky or ground within the painting; everything was given the same level of treatment. So when I made my paintings of buildings seen through trees I thought they

would be more successful if they were painted with the same lack of hierarchy as in Cézanne: instead of painting the facade of a building and then shrouding it in trees I would pick the architecture through the foliage, so that the picture would push itself up to your eye. I thought that was a much more real way of looking at things, because that is the way the eye looks: you are constantly looking through things, seeing the foreground and the background at the same time.

HOWARD HODGKIN

IN ENGLAND, certainly for someone of my generation, Cézanne's reputation has suffered greatly because of the use he has been put to by art teachers; the way he has been treated as a moral stick to beat people with. When I was a schoolboy you couldn't seriously consider becoming an art student or a painter unless you worked from nature. Cézanne was held up as the great

exemplar of someone who looked, and nature did something to him and art came out. Cézanne was not the apostle of sitting on a stool in front of a tree, a still life or a naked model and looking very carefully and using a plumb line and if you did that with sufficient application art would ensue. He was an artist first. The lucidity in front of nature that he shows is because the drawing itself is more important than the perceived subject. His pictures are flat. In a

Cézanne an orange is an orange. It is not observed as being lit from one direction. He invented a pictorial language in which edges of objects suggest a flat plane parallel to the picture surface which then rounds off at the edges.

Cézanne is resolutely frontal in his approach; his pictures are as formal as Byzantine icons. His language of painting was extremely formal in the sense that it was based on the grammar of forms. He created a language of marks which was entirely his own and enabled him to say all kinds of things.

The motif to him was a constant encouragement, reminder and friend. His language, which he acquired slowly, is self-sufficient, and comes before whatever it is trying to express. The kinds of marks he made, the grammar and syntax of Cézanne, are as paramount as in Vermeer. I think his endless fascination for people comes from the interruption or the distortion of this language by his attitude to the subject, or how the subject worked on him.

Cézanne is a great classical artist who succeeded in doing what he wanted to do. In classical art the tension between the language and what is being said or expressed is in an endlessly delicate balance.

KEN KIFF

OTHERS will make the same point about Cézanne being an example — of integrity; of bringing together serene architecture and passion; of the massive presence of objects and space, yet with the fragility of these films of paint against a sort of nothingness. So that Braque, in painting his yellow wallpaper and figures on a black ground is being not only Cubist, but still close to Cézanne.

If you were to ask me, as a painter, in 1996, "is Cézanne still of importance to you?", the answer is yes. For many reasons. Partly, perhaps, because of the enormous amount that can be focused into the dab of paint.

R.B. KITAJ

FOR many people, Shakespeare is the heart of their canon. Cézanne is at the heart of mine. Nothing in art since his last three "Bather" paintings seems more daring to me. Daring Matisse told how Cézanne's "Bathers" gave him courage to dare all his life. Picasso was still building upon Cézanne's dare in 1973. It has taken me 60 years to half solve Cézanne's secret.

I think that what he did was so strange, so hated by Philistines, so unprecedented, that real artists would, in his wake, do anything they dreamt of — within a sensibility, temperament, intellect, of course. That is the ultimate lesson of his "sensations" — they arise now from the mind, heart and hand with an utter freedom that did not, could not, exist before Cézanne.

As for me, he helps me to dare to follow my most awkward, foolish passions and obsessions, to wave my own red flags in the dull faces of late-century Salon hacks and killers. He gives me courage to invent my subjects as well as my forms.

Above all, his "little sensations" correspond to what I call my "temptations" and I believe in following what tempts me, even though it gets me into trouble — as it did Cézanne when he illustrated his own impulses and secrets. When he died, a critic wrote: "Ape-Eye is dead."

EUAN UGLOW

CÉZANNE is the pivotal figure for art of this century. — Matisse and Picasso took him as their god. From him they got the idea that an artist could do whatever he liked. But it was impossible for anyone to copy him.

Cézanne's painting was so much to do with passion: I went to the Barnes Collection and saw those portraits of his wife and found that he must have been incredibly in love. I have never seen such affectionate portraits. He was not just a crusty old man.

Cézanne's responsibility to what he was looking at, and the sensations he was getting, widened his vocabulary all the time. If you look at Cubist pictures, certainly Picasso's best paintings, you see that although very beautiful the vocabulary is very limited. Cézanne was a sculptural painter but very conscious of the surface of the canvas, and, in various ways, keeps bringing you back to the surface. Colour is one of the things that

keeps the picture on the surface.

His pictures go right across the canvas, like a typewriter: he is scanning the surface the whole time. In the late landscapes there is a passion and rhythm that you feel is like a runner running a mile — impossible to stop because there is such a terrific flow through the painting. The marks are done with an electric passion. The same powerful current goes all the way through the painting. Now I look at Cézanne for pure pleasure — he makes you want to work.

RICHARD WENTWORTH

THERE is no other word for the things that I am interested in, other than "things". That has translated itself into sculpture. I find incredible substance in Cézanne's trees, mountains and large ladies. I first saw *La Femme à la Cafetière* over 20 years ago and I remember thinking that the way the spoon was in the cup, the cup was in the saucer and the saucer was on the table was completely incredible. I see him as a sculptor's painter.

The First World War democratised doubt and the 20th century has been full of it. I see it as Cézanne's good fortune to have worked before this event. The fact that a picture by Cézanne is simultaneously so obviously unsure and yet resolved is a kind of ironic encouragement, I suppose. Doubt is the position from which artists have to work, and a century later there are no canons out there to reach for.

● Cézanne is at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1, from Thursday until April 28; sponsored by Ernst & Young. For advance booking, which is advised, telephone 0171-420 0000

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

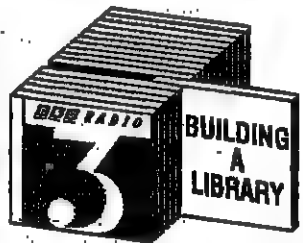
SMETANA'S MÁ VLAST, reviewed by Jan Smaczny

Composed between 1874 and 1879, this cycle of six symphonic poems celebrates the history, mythology and countryside of Bohemia. Shortly after beginning *Má vlast*, Smetana became rapidly and completely deaf — a disastrous blow for any musician, particularly one who earned the major part of his living from conducting.

Má vlast undoubtedly gained depth from the identification of personal suffering with the triumphs and vicissitudes of the composer's nation. Little wonder that Czech conductors aspire to direct the work, and it is no surprise that a majority of available versions are by Czechs, mostly with the Czech Philharmonic.

Among them, Václav Talich (Supraphon 11 1896-2, mid price) and Václav Smetáček (Supraphon 11 1961-2, mid price) maintain a firm grip on the narrative in the first part, *Výhled*, which depicts the glory and decline of the Czech nation. Some performers, including James Levine with the Vienna Philharmonic and Antal Dorati with the Concertgebouw, tend to overemphasise the bombastic elements; others, among them Elihu Inbal with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony, are too sentimental in the nature pictures, *Vltava* and *From Bohemia's Woods and Fields*.

Walser Weller with the Israel Philharmonic (Decca 433 635-2, budget) finds an infectious lift in the dance episodes and takes an unfussy approach to the serious music. But ultimately the Czechs have an advantage with orchestras that have this music in their blood; also, their best conductors interpret with an eye to Smetana's innate operatic sense.



As a result, the most striking performance comes from Raphael Kubelík (who also has two recordings with non-Czech orchestras available) and the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra from the 1990 Prague Spring Festival. This first festival after the Velvet Revolution marked Kubelík's return to his native land after many years of exile, and the electric atmosphere and superb playing make this a uniquely valuable document.

In this performance (Supraphon 11 1208-2, £13.95), the CPO played as it had rarely done for 40 years. There is a certain amount of audience noise, but the dignity, strength and sheer exultation of this remarkable recording provide a breathtakingly vivid image of the Czech nation celebrating itself at the dawn of a new era — and that, when all is said and done, is what *Má vlast* is all about.

● Recommended recordings can be ordered from The Times CD Mail, 29 Pall Mall, London W10 6BL (freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk) ● Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Verdi's *Don Carlos*

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POP

The real McKee

Whipping Boy
LA2, WI

ONCE just another Dublin four-piece, whose first album revealed little more than a love of distorted guitars, Whipping Boy have developed a style of their own, and in Ferghal McKee they have a charismatic front man with a potentially great voice.

The turning point came with last year's *Heartworm* album, with its songs of romantic desolation and near despair but with the kind of tunes that cannot help but draw people in. A good example is *Twinkle*, the first single from the album, which featured a fine performance from McKee, who became part cabaret star, part unhinged psycho as he allowed the song's big tune to mask the tainted love in its lyrics.

The most obvious comparison is with Shane MacGowan.

He certainly sounds a lot like him, particularly on the new single, *When We Were Young*, which he sang with a can of beer in one hand and a cigarette in the other. There is also an aggressive side to McKee, as he showed during *Tripped*, when he stood at the edge of the stage and sneered the words "It's easy just to be like anyone".

Occasionally, he retreated inwards, becoming even more manic. At one point, he pulled the hood of his sweatshirt over his head, almost completely covering his face, and swayed backwards and forwards like the kind of lunatic you try to avoid making eye contact with on the Tube.

Whipping Boy have enormous pop potential, as they showed in the closing *We Don't Need Nobody Else*, which McKee mockingly described as "a Bryan Adams song" but which is actually a vivid account of domestic violence wrapped in a bold, catchy tune.

McKee has been known to strip off all his clothes and perform naked. Thankfully, on this occasion, he remained fully clothed; when Whipping Boy are as good as this, they do not need the extra gimmick.

ANN SCANLON

RECITAL

Total control

Maria João Pires
Wigmore Hall

A STRING of Chopin nocturnes formed the second half of Maria João Pires's recital at the Wigmore Hall; we heard about half his output in this genre at a single sitting, with no intervening applause to break the spell she wove with consummate mastery. The capacity audience sat still and quiet as Chopin's poetry-for-piano filled the hall.

Pires's finely wrought interpretation brought out a strong narrative vein in the music, making every note count in an overall account that was quite simply the most compelling I have heard. There is nothing break or fussy about her playing; her approach is direct, even bold at times. This was particularly telling in the arduous she brought to those contrasting central sections. Indeed, one of the great

strengths of Pires's performance was her ability to startle, to make music that is as familiar and comfortable as a warm glove sound fresh, even strange.

Clarity of articulation was the key to Pires's stunning performance of Mozart's Sonata in B flat major K333. Her attention to phrasing was total (the synopses in the development section of the first movement, for example, were brilliantly pointed), but the result was unfussy and the broader interpretative canvas was only enhanced by such details.

Here, as throughout the programme, which also included Schumann's *Three Romances* Op 28 in an account full of rhapsodic energy, Pires was a master of contrast — as, for instance, in the contained elegance of Mozart's last-movement Rondo theme juxtaposed with the thunder of its mock-cadenza, or the sudden passion that erupted in a minor key episode in the otherwise mellow *Andante Cantabile*. This ability to change, in an instant, both tone quality and character reflects Pires's absolute technical control and lends her performances greatness.

TESS KNIGHTON

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Matthew Parris



■ The everyday features of our lives change before our very eyes, before we even notice

Where have hitch-hikers gone? I have always offered lifts but, driving an empty car onto the M1 the other day, I reflected on how seldom now one sees those hopefuls with cardboard notices saying "Leeds". Ever since I hitched as a young man, this has struck me as a sensible way for the enterprising and the skint to travel: a fuel-efficient and "green" mode of transport. So why is hitch-hiking dying out? I have no reason to believe it has become more dangerous, though we do make an increasing fuss about danger. Are the poor so much richer than they were? Or does a culture in parts of which it is almost the vogue to beg for money now regard it as demeaning to beg a ride? This is just one of many once-familiar features of our lives whose quiet exit is hardly noticed until, one day, you wake up and wonder where they've gone. Unobtrusively, they have made their excuses and left.

Sometimes a death goes almost unremarked. An individual who has been long retired and sunk from public view passes away, perhaps in August when we are abroad. Then, years later, we say "I wonder where so-and-so is these days?"

Oh, she's been dead years, didn't you know?" And so it is, not just with people, but with things: with words (who is a spinster any more? with habits, practices, gadgets — with ideas, even. Where, for instance, are the dark, starry skies of our youth? Retreating, as every new column of orange sodium street lighting marches across Britain.

And where did pyjamas go? I wore some last week, for the first time in years, and thought what a good idea they were. Like clockwork alarm clocks, gold top milk, NHS dentists, top-loading washing machines, men in hats and children cycling to school, they slip, one by one, from our lives. Sometimes the reasons are obvious. We do not have to ask why it's ages since we saw greaseproof toilet paper, a Tardis police phone box, or blotting paper: why, taking a record from my collection of LPs, I forget how to play them; or why you hardly see children playing in the street any more. But the reasons for some of the disappearances are more mysterious. A decade or more ago (as I recall) all the traffic-lights in London used to have *flam-beaux* — flaming beacons, in cast iron — proudly mounted on top. As a child I used to believe that these represented lions' tails, but lions' tails or torches, they were a noble and stylish ornament to the street furniture of our metropolises. Some ghastly local government person must have decreed that these fripperies

Zebra crossings, two-tone cars, dial telephones, hitch-hikers — where are they now?

Dad also thought stereo record-players would be a nine-day wonder, because the aim of every great conductor was to produce a unified sound. Where are mono music centres now? Like black-and-white TV sets, telegrams and postal orders, they have made their excuses and left. Telex, I think, will be the next to go.

Two-tone cars, the top half painted a different shade from the lower, have gone too. Why? I rather liked them. Also gone are bench front seats and steering-column gear-changes, yet I can remember when gear-sticks on the floor were thought old-fashioned. And why are babies' prams disappearing? They are, you know, along with tartan pull-along shopping trolleys. The reason's by no means clear.

More perplexing still is the extinction of Avril. In the 1950s almost everybody was called Avril. Now I know only one. Have the others all died?

The recollection of so many old friends, plucked from us, induces melancholy. And several other friends are putting on their coats as I write: telephones you dial rather than stab; typewriters; cheques ... doomed, all doomed.

So what will be next to go? Newspapers? The Internet edition of The Times is now available on <http://www.the-times.co.uk>

The Labour leader promises radical change, and seems to mean it, but how will he behave in adversity?

Michael Heseltine has become the spin-bowler of the Tory party. He trundles up to the wicket, his arms flapping, looking like one of the battered old professionals who played for Northants or Glamorgan in the years before the war. Unfortunately his googly is so obvious that a tailend batsman would be able to spot it wearing dark glasses in a thunderstorm.

Yesterday he was trying to persuade David Frost that "three weeks of pounding" had knocked Tony Blair of his perch. The Tories are making themselves ridiculous by running a knocking personal campaign so long before a general election, and only ten days before the Scott report is published. They would do much better to stick to issues of policy, on which their case is stronger.

Tony Blair may have rather more to fear from his friends than his enemies. The latest issue of *The New Yorker* has a long and favourable profile of Tony Blair, by Sidney Blumenthal. He is a perceptive journalist, makes a number of good points, and quotes a remark I had forgotten from Tony Blair's speech to last October's Labour Party conference. Even then, Blair was able to mock the various and incompatible attempts the Tories had made to pin a label on him. "It has been hard, I know. Hard for me sometimes. Last year I was in Stalin. From Disneyland to dictatorship in six short months."

Yet Blumenthal casts Blair in a role which is, I think, equally misconceived. As an American commentator, he naturally relates British politics to his American experience, and specifically he treats Tony Blair as though he were the British Bill Clinton. If that were true, it would be a disaster. Tony Blair promises to change Britain. The changes he has

made in the Labour Party are only a preliminary to that. Whatever view one takes of President Clinton, he is not a radical in that sense. If new Labour turns out to be the same as the Clinton White House, Tony Blair will have failed in his own terms. Indeed Sidney Blumenthal sees this. Blair in power would not be checked and balanced; with a certain majority, he could propose and dispose. The experiment that Clinton proposed at the beginning of his Administration, but which was frustrated, might therefore be tested first in Blair's Britain.

The Clinton experiment has indeed been a failure. But the Blair experiment is not at all the same, and Blair himself is not Clinton. This is a sensitive issue for those of us who can remember the 1960s, because we have already been conned once by Labour. Harold Wilson made rather similar claims to Tony Blair's, but he did not deliver, or seriously try to deliver, what he promised in Opposition. If new Labour turned out to be a return to the Harold Wilson style of social democracy, it would be a disaster. Equally, Bill Clinton has not kept his promises of 1992: it is a polite euphemism to say that his "experiment" has been "frustrated". So the question is whether Tony Blair is another politician like Clinton or Wilson, or whether, for better or worse, he is a radical who means seriously what he says about changing the country.

Getting to know the real Mr Blair

In 1962, a few months before his death, I had my last lunch with Hugh Gaitskell, the Labour leader whom I have most admired and trusted. He had been defeated in his attempt to abolish Clause Four, an issue on which Tony Blair was to succeed more than 30 years later. He was confident, however, that he would win the next election, whenever it might come. He talked about the difficulty of changing the Labour Party: he had loyal support from some of the younger men, including

Hugh Gaitskell had, and the same sense that the values of the Labour Party must not be overturned by out-of-date ways of achieving them. Both men believed that political values are permanent — and their values are very similar — but that methods have to be changed, and may have to be changed completely.

There are obvious ways in which Tony Blair does not resemble Hugh Gaitskell. Hugh had the mind of a first class academic, and loved to teach. In the mid 1950s, when I was a lonely young lobby correspondent for the *Financial Times* somewhat out of my depth, and he was Shadow Chancellor, I remember him giving me impromptu tutorials on the machinery of the Finance Bill, which must have kept the readers of the *FT* unusually well informed. Tony Blair makes his arguments, more like a barrister who wants to persuade the jury. But the two men are certainly the most alike of Labour leaders, perhaps best defined as radical social democrats.

Partly because they happened to look alike, Hugh Gaitskell used to be compared to the Younger Pitt — some of Gillray's cartoons of Pitt could have been taken for Hugh. This, rather than Disraeli's One Nation, is the temperamental tradition in politics to which Tony Blair belongs. Disraeli was much more the phrase-maker and poseur. Pitt and Blair

have the same element of youth, though not to the same degree. There is the same attachment to ideas of policy, and to the people who share those ideas. In 1785, Daniel Pultney wrote about William Pitt, "His living and conversing with a very small circle, and acting only on abstract general principles, will, I foresee, involve him at some time or other in difficulties."

Both Hugh and Tony, like Pitt, had or have a small group of friends focused around common ideas: so did another radical politician, Margaret Thatcher. All four of them have the capacity to involve themselves in difficulties.

Pitt was radical: one cannot read his great speech of December 3, 1798, in which he first introduced income tax, without seeing how radical his mind was. He also had the sense that political strength is built by overcoming rather than evading obstacles, which is part of the radical politician's creed — of Margaret Thatcher's even more than of Tony Blair's. Blair still has too many enemies in his own party, just as Margaret Thatcher always had in hers.

During a debate in October 1796, William Pitt suddenly flared up as Hugh Gaitskell used to, at something Charles James Fox had said: "Of the virtues to be acquired in the school of adversity, the Right Honourable Gentleman only mentioned those of moderation and forbearance. There are other virtues of no less importance which are to be acquired under a reverse of fortune — they are the virtues of adversity endured and adversity resisted; of adversity encountered and adversity surmounted." I think Tony Blair will suffer adversity — probably more than he can yet perceive. I do not think he will particularly seek to avoid it. I am sure he will endure and resist it; whether he will be able to overcome it, only time and events will tell.

William Rees-Mogg

Roy Jenkins and Tony Crosland, but could not rely on any of his senior colleagues, particularly Harold Wilson or George Brown. "If I could rely on even one of them, the whole situation would be different."

Tony Blair is much better placed than that: in particular, Gordon Brown is a rock compared to George Brown. But Blair leaves the same impression as I remember from Hugh Gaitskell. I saw Tony Blair recently after I returned from Hong Kong; we met to discuss the Far East, which he had also recently visited. I found the same sense of urgency that

It will be Europe that matters

Peter Riddell assesses the make-up of the Tory party after the election

Ideology is a much overrated influence within the Tory party. Desire for office and re-election, the pressure of events, generational changes and long-term social and economic trends all matter as much, and often more. Most Tory MPs are not very ideological, or even factional. Consequently, the party is likely to change much less after the next election, win or lose, than is commonly assumed — with the important, and possibly critical, exception of the rising tide of Euro-scepticism.

Even at the height of Margaret Thatcher's powers, in 1989, Professor Philip Norton, a leading taxonomist of MPs' views, reckoned that no more than one in five Tory MPs was a committed Thatcherite. The same could be said now of the hard-core Euro-sceptics. The 1992 intake of Tory MPs has never behaved with the ideological zealotry and class of House Republicans elected in November 1994, who have now even challenged the authority of Newt Gingrich, their Robespierre.

Much of the current discussion about One Nation Toryism therefore misses the point. In the current issue of *Prospect* magazine, Ian Gilmour offers a typically elegant lament for the failure of the Tory Left and its complicity in "the right-wingery" of the Major Government, arguing that the Left was beguiled by John Major's humane rhetoric. The Gilmour approach has in turn infuriated the more fervent Portliss and Redwoodites, who accuse the Government of having shifted to the left at the last reshuffle.

Both the Left and Right of the party, to use terms the committed minority understand, confuse style



for substance. They underrate the extent to which a new domestic policy consensus has developed since 1979. Indeed, the isolation under Margaret Thatcher of the old politician "wets", such as Gilmour, in the early 1980s owed as much as to the rejection of Keynesian demand management by the younger generation of Tories as to her shrewd tactics. The new Toryism embraces a belief in deregulation, privatisation, quasi-market disciplines in public services and slimming of the State through a series of incremental changes. Many of these aims, particularly the last, have been hard to achieve. But they are common to much of the party, from, say, Peter Lilley to Stephen Dorrell.

This was strikingly recognised in the "Asian tigers" lecture last October by Chris Patten, once the rising hope of the Tory paternalists, who now advocates reducing the scope of the State. Kenneth Clarke is often held up as the last great defender of a One Nation approach. And so he is, in the sense that he rejects the calls of some free-market think-tanks for a shift to an American-style insurance system. His acknowledgement of the limits of any medium-term reduction in the share of public spending has received much attention. But as a minister he initiated many of the most controversial changes in health and education, and has presided over very tight squeezes on public spending.

Mr Major, far from rejecting the domestic programme of the Thatcher era, has maintained and implemented it — as is shown by a valuable study, *Contemporary British Conservatism* (just published by Macmillan), Steve Ludlam and Martin Smith, the joint editors from Sheffield University, argue that the Major administration has been most faithful in those areas where Thatcherism was incomplete, such as Civil Service reform and trickier privatisations such as rail and coal.

This approach appears to be shared by most new Tory candidates in winnable seats ("appears" because many have no very clear-cut views). At most, there seems to have been a modest shift to the loyalist Right in the selections. Several rightwingers have taken new seats, and well-known leftwingers have been replaced by committed rightwingers (such as Sir Julian Critchley by Gerald Howarth at Aldershot). But in other cases, it is more of a shift of generation and style, while several

candidates reducing the scope of the State.

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Centre-Left candidates have been chosen, in some cases to succeed rightwingers.

Some able candidates on the free-market Right have not yet been selected, notably Michael Fallon, the former Education Minister, and John Bercow, an energetic special adviser. They have been on shortlists, chosen by a small group of committed activists, but the final decision lies with the wider party membership, which is generally less ideological. Hence, the broader mix of Right and Left candidates, who have been chosen as much for their personalities and career records as for their views.

Moreover, even if the Tories lose the election, changes will be limited by what financial managers call a flight to quality, that is a shift by sitting MPs to safer seats. This has been exemplified by Cabinet ministers in constituencies being split by the boundary changes opting for the safer portion. They include Brian Mawhinney, Stephen Dorrell and Peter Lilley; while Sir George Young, James Arbuthnot and Eric Forth are among a dozen MPs moving to entirely different and safer seats.

The identikit new candidate, like the average MP, supports cuts in public spending and taxes, without putting forward the radical Right's plans for cutting back state provision of health and education. He, and in a few cases she, favours more police and tougher sentencing, without necessarily backing the return of capital punishment. He is strongly loyalist, but is also generally Euro-sceptic. Indeed the biggest shift at the election will be the replacement of strong pro-Europeans in their sixties by sceptics in their late thirties and forties. Some pro-Europeans have been picked, including former and current MEPs, but they are exceptions.

Almost whatever the result, the election will see a further reduction in the pro-European forces. In the battle for the future leadership and direction of the party, however, the Tories' deep divisions about Europe are likely to matter far more than their broad consensus on domestic policy. It always comes back to Europe.

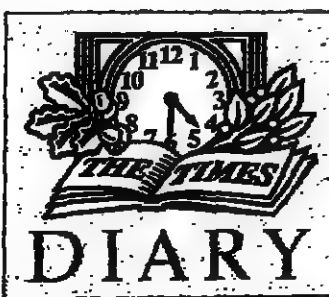
Pardon me?

AS William Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, fights for his political future over his involvement in the arms-to-Iraq affair, his trusty special adviser, David Rutley, who has been an indispensable support to him over his Scott-induced tribulations, is involved in a political struggle of his own.

He has joined the race for selection for a Conservative seat before the general election, but finds himself competing with another Treasury colleague, the similarly named David Rutley. The two Davids — telephone callers to the Treasury are advised to enunciate clearly — are each hoping to be selected as the prospective Conservative candidate for Buckingham.

Rutley — who is slightly larger than Rutley and likes to play golf — lost out to Norman Lamont recently in Harrogate, and is special adviser to the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke.

David Rutley — a sinewy type who likes rock-climbing — followed Waldegrave to the Treasury as special adviser, having been with him in beleaguered days at the



Cabinet Office and Ministry of Agriculture.

Neither will be drawn on the phonetic confusions of their names. Rutley only says tactfully, "I am higher up the alphabet than Mr Rutley."

Tee time

AFTER the royal flamingos were last week massacred by a rogue fox, who padded over the frozen lake in the grounds of Buckingham Palace and ravaged the fluorescent flock, golfers have been suffering from similar vulpine antics. Near the 18th hole at the Roe-

hampton golf course, right in front of the clubhouse, a fox appeared and started to speculate. But then as the former City of London Sheriff, Jonathan Charkham, tried to tee off in a competition on Saturday, the fox picked up his ball and carried it over to a bunker and dropped it in. The crowd roared with laughter and Charkham reclaimed his ball, but the animal decided to stay and watch.

The fox's gaze proved distracting. "Unfortunately Charkham played the shot straight into the same bunker," says a sympathetic observer.

Prince Edward, who attended the England v Wales five nations championship match at Twickenham on Saturday without his innamorata Sophie Rhys-Jones, officially opened the new ERIC room. The England Rugby International Club, open only to those who have played for England, is said to have a "nightclubby" atmosphere, which may be why the Prince stayed longer there than expected and had to be prised away for the official lunch.

Modest means

MAYA FLICK is currently comingling her divorce settlement from the Mercedes-Benz her Friedrich

Christian "Mick" Flick through the British courts, and claims she can't manage on £9 million. But according to her brother, Maya is really a woman of simple tastes, even though the judge balked at a request for £4,000 a year to look after her Labrador.

In an interview in the forthcoming edition of *Harpers & Queen*,



Maya prefers her 2CV, though the other car is a Ferrari

Count Alexander Schönburg says loyally of his sister: "Her favourite car is a 2CV, while her husband drives a Ferrari. The divorce settlement gives her under a million pounds to furnish two houses in England plus a holiday chalet in Klosters. Mick would spend that on a Louis XVI chest of drawers. Even his ashtrays are antiques."

Taste trials

AFTER the opening last week of *The Fields of Ambrosia*, a show which finds fun in people being fried in electric chairs, I have news of another musical of breathtaking tastelessness bound for the London stage. A French company is negotiating with producers to bring *D-Day: The Musical* into the West End.

One scene takes the form of a duet "which is a mixture of words and cries of grief and pain". Another episode, in which soldiers witness a glutton stuffing his face, concludes with them "vomiting in unison at the end of the scene". But the jolliest scene occurs before the troops even land in Normandy. "This scene will be treated with humour even if its theme is one of awful suffering from seasickness," runs the cheerful summary, arguing bewilderingly that "this unex-

pected use of humour surprises the spectator and will thus serve to amplify the horror of the situation". Ah, the Gallic joie de mourir!

Frisky biz

BUNTY LEWIS, the stalwart chairman of the Queen Charlotte's Birthday Ball committee, which raises money for the hospital, is hanging up her dancing shoes.

Bunty — who has shepherded dozens of debs, including the superbly named Minky Sloane, down the grand staircase at the Grosvenor House in their long white frocks — has been an imposing figure on the social scene for seven years, since she resurrected the ball. But ill-health has forced her to take a less demanding role.

"I am going to be joint president with Lady Robson but the Countess of St Andrews will be chairman," she says. "I am there to help, to be her blotting-paper." Lady St Andrews, the former Sylvia Tomaselli, was a tutor at Cambridge, and after dealing with unruly undergraduates during the 1980s, will have no trouble keeping the frisky debs in line.

● If the Prime Minister speaks on the telephone to a woman late at night — as the Duke of Edinburgh



The Countess of St Andrews

does — it is likely to be to his sister, Pat Dossy. The 65-year-old widow, who brought her children up on her own, has admitted to a series of late-night chats with her little brother, in which she advised him to end the Tory crusade against single mothers. Her rare public pronouncements are a pleasing contrast to Terry Major-Balke's enthusiastic but interminable chunterings.

P.H.S



A HEAVY TREAD

True German leadership would face the facts about EMU

For a German Chancellor even to hint, in Belgium of all countries, that where German jackboots twice marched this century they could march again unless Europe follows Germany's federal route-map is worse than infelicitous: it is contrary to Germany's own interests. Helmut Kohl has never been a man for the subtle nuance; his is an all-or-nothing federal vision of Europe and he has never made any bones about it. In substance, his "nationalism is war" speech at the University of Louvain last week added little to his well-known view that Europe faces a straight choice between "continued integration" and catastrophe. But the more Herr Kohl insists on doing things his way, the more attention he draws to an awkward fact. Among the European Union's major players, Germany alone believes wholeheartedly in its federal destiny.

Herr Kohl's motives are nothing but honourable. He is convinced that unless German power is constrained within a federal EU, fear and resentment of German power will reignite nationalism among its neighbours, particularly France, and make war on the Continent possible at some point in the future. He also believes that among German politicians, he alone has the determination and the persuasive power to bring about "irreversible" European integration. It does not follow that a "European Germany" can be secured only on German terms. If Herr Kohl believes that fear will force the rest of Europe into line, he is in serious error. There is nothing either illegitimate or dangerous about the British view, reiterated yesterday by Michael Portillo, that nation states and nationalism are not the same thing and that the way ahead is to look for "ways in which nations can collaborate together more and more".

Nobody disputes that, from its origin, the driving political imperative behind the EU has been to make war between its members

unthinkable. Nobody, as Mr Portillo said, "wants to go back to the sort of terrible nationalism that was unleashed in the 1930s". Herr Kohl would do better to celebrate that historic success than to utter apocalyptic warnings which give scant credit to the solid democracy that Germany has become. He will win no arguments that way, or by ignoring the increasingly fluid, creative debate about the role of the modern nation state in a stable, prosperous Europe.

Herr Kohl's antennae, so sensitive when it comes to dealing with the strategically vital matter of the West's relationship with Russia, have been blunted by his anxiety about monetary union. It is now evident that if Europe is not to plunge into recession, the Maastricht rules on deficits will have to be relaxed if the 1999 timetable is to be met. The treaty in fact permits this; but any such decision would greatly intensify the resistance of Germans to giving up the mark. Herr Kohl has always seen EMU as a means to a political end. He is convinced that the pooling of monetary sovereignty would create the basis for the federal Europe of his dreams — which is why he suspects Britain of sabotaging the project.

Irritation should not blind him to a far more present danger than warlike nationalism. Unless two conditions are met, EMU will fray the bonds of faith that underpin all democracies. There must be a genuine economic convergence, or the management of a single currency will produce nothing but dispute; and the peoples of Europe must themselves be convinced of EMU's positive benefits. Since neither of these conditions now obtains, true German leadership would consist in a courageous admission of the facts. By dismissing all doubt, Herr Kohl is at risk of sounding less than respectful of the democratic processes he set out to champion at Louvain last week. He is also at risk of creating what he fears: a divided Europe.

THROUGH SIGNAL

Ideology never made the trains run on time

In the frosty early morning, the first scheduled private trains to run on Britain's mainline network for more than 48 years pulled into Paddington and Waterloo yesterday. Their curious passengers were duly feted by the new railway directors and a triumphant Transport Secretary. Sir George Young's relief is palpable: despite soaring costs, publicised bureaucratic absurdities and the stubborn suspicion of the travelling public, the most complex privatisation ever attempted in Britain has, at last, paid off. For the first time since 1947, regular passenger services are now being provided by private companies ready to inject their capital, innovative skills and entrepreneurial energy into a neglected, run-down but vital sector of the nation's transport network.

Yesterday's sunny mood, however, suffered a political eclipse. Less than a day before the third private company was to join the debut of Great Western and South West Trains, the Government ordered a halt to the transfer of the London, Tilbury and Southend line to private management. Suspected fraud involving the reissuing of tickets at a station shared with London Underground, thus cheating the rival company of about £30,000 a month, has severely embarrassed the Government. It could not have given opponents of privatisation a more tellingly symbolic example of the seemingly endless mishaps that have dogged this complex operation. Even Conservative MPs, champions of free enterprise, concede that transfer of the LTS line is, at present, unconscionable.

Already the incident has highlighted the dangers inherent in breaking up a network into competing units. So fierce will be the

competition for the elusive passenger that the new companies may be tempted to do down their competitors by methods more reminiscent of the pirate practices of America's railway barons than the business mores expected of today. Firmness by the Rail Regulator and intrusive enforcement of the conditions of the new leases by the franchise director will be essential.

The system, however, must now be allowed to operate. However misconceived the basic proposal to split British Rail into as many as 25 companies may have been, the legal reorganisation is now largely in place. It is as Labour also evidently believes, too late to put BR together again. Even the flotation of Railtrack, which Labour has vaguely promised to take under public control, if not actually into public ownership, now looks assured. The privatisation of the 11,000-mile network may slip from May to June; but at a knockdown price, it will be in private hands by the General Election, and may already have received its first injection of much-needed private investment. Three more operating companies will by then be running trains, so that almost half of all rail passengers will be able to judge the difference.

The yardstick by which privatisation must be measured is still that it brings more money and wider expertise to revive the nation's railways. Sensibly, the Government has now overcome some of its prejudices against BR, so that a new generation of managers with radical ideas may be allowed to compete for the remaining franchises. Ideology never made the trains run on time; from today the test will be whether the trains to the West and the South-West are better run, more comfortable and fuller than before.

THE HEALING TOUCH

Medicine is widening its horizons with alternative ideas

More and more Britons are entrusting their minds and bodies to the practitioners of alternative medicine. According to recent estimates, one in three people has undergone acupuncture or hypnosis, made use of aromatherapy or herbal medicine, visited chiropractors or osteopaths. Four out of every five who do so are convinced they have received lasting benefit. Indeed, the use of alternative medicine is rising in Britain faster than in any other European country.

The kind of treatment offered has long been available on the Continent as an adjunct to orthodox medicine; yet for more than 40 years it has been shunned by the medical establishment in Britain. The very word "alternative" has suggested something beyond the pale of scientifically-based medicine. The profession has stigmatised all such practices as untested and unproven, akin to faith healing and verging on quackery. The fact that the therapies offered have for years proved remarkably effective with a large number of people has been dismissed as irrelevant: opponents argue that any treatment which patients believe is doing them good will improve their response to conventional medicine.

The banning of alternative medicine from the lexicon of general practice was made absolute by the setting up of the National Health Service. The committees charged with financing the NHS needed to know what medicine could be deemed mainstream, and therefore eligible for funding, and what was fringe and best left to the pri-

ivate sector. Britain, unlike France or Germany, had little tradition of "taking the waters" and such treatments — indeed almost all prophylactic cures — have been seen as a socially reprehensible pampering of the rich.

With the demise of the NHS monolith, attitudes are changing. Doctors who can control their own budgets are more open to innovation and to the traditions of other countries. Eastern medicine used only to excite scepticism: acupuncture was regarded as offering little that relaxation and regular exercise could not also supply. All now command respect.

Perhaps the most intriguing recourse to alternative medicine is the growing, but still largely inexplicable, role of hypnosis. Some GPs now achieve extraordinary success using this powerful and unpredictable instrument, and the Society of Medical and Dental Hypnosis runs courses and conferences to compare clinical experience. They worry about the unmonitored use of hypnosis by mesmerists making extravagant claims; the ethical implications are challenging. Indeed all doctors would like to bring the treatment proposed by unregistered practitioners of alternative medicine within the remit of supervised health care. While they were identified with quackery, that was impossible. Now that doctors, patients and medical insurers are looking at this huge field more seriously, it is both possible and necessary.

Why civil servants require anonymity

From Mr M. G. Power

Sir, Mr Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, told civil servants in a recent lecture at the Civil Service College (report, January 24) that they must be prepared to do more to explain government policies.

It is the duty of ministers to explain policies. Explanations invite questions; questions invite argument. Many government policies are controversial, some bitterly opposed by the Opposition in Parliament. Follow Mr Heseltine's words to their logical conclusion and we shall see on TV a permanent secretary crossing swords with Miss Clare Short on the privatisation of British Rail.

He would probably do that very well, perhaps even more persuasively than ministers. But it would brand him as a political animal in the eyes of the public. Moreover, to be seen as the public protagonist of a policy which is anathema to one party might make it difficult to serve the new government after a general election.

In the 1930s Sir Warren Fisher and Sir Edward Bridges wrote minutes about the role of the civil servant. These declared that it was the job of ministers to explain government policy; a civil servant has no power of his own, everything he says or does is in the name of a minister.

I think it was Bridges who went further by emphasising that to preserve the political impartiality of the Civil Service, civil servants should be anonymous. Anonymity is a virtue for civil servants, not a weakness.

Some might argue that the words of distinguished civil servants 60 years ago are out of date. They are only out of date if the Government is deliberately aiming to politicise the Civil Service, or if, in their weakness, they need to employ officials to do their job for them.

Yours sincerely,
M. G. POWER
(Under Secretary, Civil Service Department, 1977-79),
Warcom Way,
Farnham Heath Road,
Compton, Guildford, Surrey,
January 29.

Newbury bypass

From the Chairman of The Wildlife Trusts

Sir, Councillor Simon Melville, in his letter of January 25, states that none of the five national environmental organisations which were co-signatories to Dr Simon Lyner's letter of January 19 appeared at the Newbury bypass public inquiry in 1988.

In fact, The Wildlife Trusts were represented by BRONT (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Naturalists Trust) and the Hampshire Wildlife Trust, who jointly presented substantial and detailed written evidence on our behalf.

At the inquiry the Nature Conservancy and The Wildlife Trusts recommended that, in the event of the highly undesirable route now under construction being chosen, the road should be carried on stilts where it will cross the superb Kennet and Lambourn valleys — a view that has been strongly endorsed by the National Rivers Authority.

That option has been rejected. Embankments are now to be constructed across the river corridors, which will be severely detrimental to many plants and animals. Others, which are now making a welcome return to this region, will be particularly vulnerable to the heavy traffic as they explore the road embankments and seek routes along the riversides.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN CRANE, Chairman,
The Wildlife Trusts,
The Green, Witham Park,
Waterside South, Lincoln.

Displacing Bristol

From Mr Charles Wallis-Newport

Sir, According to my reckoning, your description of Bristol nesting "between the Quantocks and the Mendips" (Weekend, January 27) places our great seaport of the West some 25 miles to the south of the River Avon and in the general vicinity of that jewel of the Somerset Riviera, Burnham-on-Sea.

Yours, somewhat disoriented,
CHARLES WALLIS-NEWPORT,
41 Burnham Drive, Bleadon Hill,
Weston-super-Mare, Avon.

Ways to fall asleep

From Wing Commander R. Dauncey

Sir, I can confirm your interesting article about the arousal from sleep by different types of noise ("A jumbo disturbs us less than a baby's cry", *Mind and Matter*, January 28).

In 1949 my parents lived in Brunswick, Germany, under the turning point for the RAF aircraft flying into Berlin along the central corridor during the airlift.

On arrival for the summer holidays, I remember spending the first hour fascinatedly watching the aeroplanes (all noisy, mostly 4-engine piston/propeller-driven) coming in at about 3,000ft — one every three minutes. From then on I did not notice them, day or night, except when there was a change, say, in engine noise or if there was a gap of a few minutes longer between aircraft.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Healthcare services under pressure

From Professor Sir Roy Calne, FRS

Sir, All over Britain — as your report today makes only too clear — hospitals are under pressure. In addition to the critical shortage of casualty doctors highlighted by your report, patients with cancer and dangerous vascular conditions are having their operations cancelled because of the shortage of intensive-care beds; some of those operated on are being transferred many miles to intensive-care beds in distant hospitals; and increased stress on the nurses who staff critical-care units is leading to premature resignations.

There can be no medical justification for these failures, and there is an urgent need for a review of the system which has created them — in particular of the distribution of intensive-care beds between hospitals, the criteria for the admission of patients, and the stressful alternation between periods of excessive and too-little work which stems largely from the "ring-fencing" of critical-care units.

Hospital administration is criticised for wasting money on the salaries of unnecessary bureaucrats and squandering time and professional expertise on useless committees. However, even if management were pared down to a minimum, a decent health service that can provide dignified care for the community will require more money and revised priorities.

This must be a dreadful thought for politicians with an election looming; but it would be preferable to acknowledge with honesty that the present state of affairs is unsatisfactory and, in some instances, a disgrace. How can I face my patients and tell them that the essential major operations for which they have been prepared both mentally and physically are cancelled yet again?

Yours sincerely,
ROY CALNE,
University of Cambridge
Clinical School,
Department of Surgery,
Addenbrooke's Hospital,
Hills Road, Cambridge,
February 2.

From Mr P. J. M. Stoney

Sir, The requirement that every trust hospital should show a 6 per cent rate of return on capital appears to be driving the entire NHS hospital system.

In order to achieve this rate, trust boards have to adjust their service delivery levels, wards have to be closed, staffing levels adjusted downwards,

Asylum Bill

From Mr Nick Hardwick and Mr John Whitaker

Sir, February 5 will mark a lamentable change in Britain's honourable history of tolerance. From that day welfare support will be withdrawn from many asylum-seekers newly arrived in the United Kingdom.

Oxam and the Refugee Council have direct knowledge of the violence and persecution which daily drive thousands of people to leave their countries of origin and seek safety abroad. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported last November that the number of people fleeing from war has risen to 27 million, a rise of 10 million in the last 10 years.

In January the High Commissioner expressed grave concern at the UK Government's decision to withdraw welfare benefits, saying that this could

equipment replacements postponed, surgical procedures delayed, late payment to suppliers authorised. Reduce the 6 per cent rate and healthcare service levels can be raised; increase it, and provision declines.

The trouble with this way of doing things is that patients are subjected to sudden changes in standards of service because of supply-side constraints.

The Department of Health and its Treasury paymasters need to consider what rate of return on capital would deliver healthcare outcomes superior to those currently attained.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. M. STONEY (Chairman,
Finance Committee, Broadgreen
Hospital NHS Trust, 1991-95),
Liverpool Macroeconomic
Research Limited,
University of Liverpool,
PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX,
January 29.

From the President of the
Hospital Consultants and
Specialists Association

Sir, The news of large pay increases received by NHS trust chief executives (report, February 1) should be no surprise, but creates an understandable irritation to other healthcare workers who have not been so fortunate.

The need to operate 450 or so local health services in competition with each other has inevitably created the need for experienced and expensive executives to manage the system. Any reduction in the expertise of numbers of the "men in grey suits" will cause NHS reforms to fail.

We predict that NHS trusts will soon appreciate the advantages of merging with adjacent trusts to create large providers of healthcare for sections of the country. Significant economies in management costs could then be made to the advantage of patient care.

Perhaps these healthcare conglomerates will once again be called "Regional Health Authorities" and become the start of a National Health Service, with a uniform provision for all. Then, staff could be paid on a national scale, with efficient and simple national negotiations.

Yours sincerely,
ROBIN LOVEDAY, President,
Hospital Consultants and
Specialists Association,
Number One, Kingsclere Road,
Oxford, Basingstoke, Hampshire,
February 1.

place the UK in violation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international treaty obligations.

We believe that these benefit changes, and other measures being proposed under the new Asylum and Immigration Bill, will increase the distress and suffering of thousands of the most vulnerable people in Britain.

Rather than run the risk of being forced to alter the legislation if it is challenged in the courts, the Government should reform its procedures for dealing with asylum claims, of its own volition and out of a basic sense of humanity.

Yours etc,
NICK HARDWICK
(Director, Refugee Council),
JOHN WHITAKER
(Deputy Director, Oxam),
Oxam,
274 Banbury Road, Oxford,
February 2.

Drivers' eye tests

From Mr Jack Arkinstall

Sir, Most drivers I know, and they include ambulance and volunteer ambulance car drivers as well as many private car drivers, wear glasses.

I am fortunate that I do not have to wear glasses, but I am war-disabled and have to drive an electric wheelchair through narrow streets in this town with lorries thundering past me.

Never has the thought occurred to me that a driver's glasses might fall off (letters, January 28, 31). But it has occurred to me that the disgraceful state of the roads could and does lead to accidents.

Yours sincerely,
JACK ARKINSTALL,
90 Beach Road,
Selsey,
Chichester, West Sussex,
February 1.

Dance in London

From the Editor of Dance Europe

Sir, How ironic that Virginia Bottomley should have chosen to present us with a logo featuring dancers in new to sell London (report, *Travel News*, February 1).

Unless she does something now to help talented young dancers to get the training they need — funding for dance students by means of discretionary grants is now virtually non-existent — there will scarcely be any dance in London in five years' time.

Perhaps her design team should start work on something more apt — featuring businessmen in suits?

Yours sincerely,
EMMA MANNING,
Editor,
Dance Europe,
PO Box 326, London N5 2JL,
January 30.

From Mrs Clare Powell

Sir, I was surprised to see the "Glyndebourne method" of theatre seating recommended by your correspondent, Mr J. A. C. Martin (letter, January 31).

It seems extraordinary, in a newly designed theatre, that tickets marked "limited vision" should have to be sold for the seats at the sides.

Yours faithfully,
CLARE POWELL,
Brook House, White Hart Lane,
Woodstreet Village,
Nr Guildford, Surrey.

From Mr Jonathan Kreeger

Sir, On the subject of theatre seating: for reasons beyond my control, I have no view whatever.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN KREEGER
(Sft lin),
Switland Cottage,
Old Boars Hill, Oxford,
February 2.

Disharmony over standards of pop

From Mr David Barnes

Sir, Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber may well lament the standard of popular music today (report, January 29), particularly with regard to musical theatre, but if he really is seeking out new talent, why not fling down the gauntlet to artists of all ages rather than only those younger than he is?

Perhaps Sir Andrew could also perform a really useful task by setting up a service to match up lyricists with composers, and vice versa. Without access to each other, the aspirations of both are doomed, for, as one talented but composer-less lyric writer of my acquaintance laments: "Without music, my lyrics are just poetry — and who wants to pay to hear poetry?"

Whilst there is no questioning that Sir Andrew's own precocious talents have blossomed in the intervening years since *Joseph*, perhaps the reason that there is, in his own words, "so little going on" can partly be attributed to his own success. Such a lucrative monopoly of the West End musical stage — from *Joseph*, *Cats* and *Starlight Express* to *Sunset Boulevard* — leaves little room for new works or talent to find either a home or entrepreneurial backing.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BARNES,
Managing Director,
Modern Media & Music,
10 Bourlet Close, W1,
January 29.

From Mr B. Wood

Sir, To my mind popular music in this country is particularly healthy and creative at present.

With the integration of global styles and influences (one would cite Björk to the Bhrundu Boys), the whole firmament is a multicultural melting pot and all the better for it. At the same time there is the Englishness of, say, Jarvis Cocker rubbing shoulders with perennials such as Ray Davies or T. S. Eliot and Duff, whose songs are more quintessentially English than the American-influenced Lennon and McCartney.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN WOOD,
37 De Lacy House,
Preston New Road,
Blackburn, Lancashire,
January 31.

From Mr Alistair Eastwood

Sir, I heartily agree with Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's lament regarding the pop music of today.

I too am over forty.

Yours sincerely,
ALISTAIR EASTWOOD,
Bristol Pasta Factory,
37 Gloucester Road,
Bishopston, Bristol,
January 29.

Theatre views

From Dr Gary Butler

Sir, As a specialist in growth disorders, I feel that I must correct some misconceptions in your letters (January 27, 31) relating to restricted views in theatres.

I have studied growth in normal children for many years, and the data I collected now forms part of the new 1995 British Growth Standards. Whereas the full height of the current generation is increased (average male 176.5cm [5ft 9½in]; average female 163.5cm [5ft 4½in]), sitting (spinal) height is not, the changes being totally accounted for by greater growth in the legs.

This is thought to reflect better social circumstances and nutrition, and has been most notable in Japan. Taller people have proportionally longer legs and vice versa, hence height differences between people are less obvious in the sitting position.

Obstructed views in the theatre are not so much a feature of variation in the physical size of the audience, but reflect the layout of the seating. Theatre designers would well be aware of population changes, however, and ensure sufficient leg-room for the present and future generations.

Yours faithfully,
G. E. BUTLER (Consultant
Paediatric Endocrinologist),
Yorkshire Growth Centre,
The General Infirmary at Leeds,
Clarendon Wing, Belmont Grove,
Leeds, West Yorkshire,
February 1.

From Mrs Clare Powell

Sir, I was surprised to see the "Glyndebourne method" of theatre seating recommended by your correspondent, Mr J. A. C. Martin (letter, January 31).

It seems extraordinary, in a newly designed theatre, that tickets marked "limited vision" should have to be sold for the seats at the sides.

Yours faithfully,
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From Mr Jonathan Kreeger

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Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN KREEGER
(Sft lin),
Switland Cottage,
Old Boars Hill, Oxford,
February 2.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 3: The Prince Edward this afternoon attended the Rugby Union Match between England and Wales at Twickenham, Middlesex.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 3: The Princess Royal this morning departed the Falkland Islands for Ascension Island. Her Royal Highness this evening arrived at Ascension Island, was received by the Administrator (Mr Roger Huxley) and attended a Reception at the Exiles Club.

SANDRINGHAM
February 4: Divine Service was held in West Newton Parish Church this morning.

The Reverend George Hall presided at the service. Mr Frederick Waite was re-

ceived by The Queen when Her Majesty visited him at the insignia of the Royal Victorian Order.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 4: The Prince Edward, Patron, Scottish Badminton Union, this afternoon attended the final of the Scottish National Championships at the Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Norman Irons, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 4: The Princess Royal this morning arrived at Royal Air Force Base Norton from Ascension Island following the conclusion of Her Royal Highness's visit to the Falkland Islands.

Birthdays today

Mr Jack Aspinwall, MP, 63; Mr Robert Atkins, MP, 50; Sir Norman Blacklock, 45; Mr Jasper Clutterbuck, executive chairman, Morland and Company, 61; Major-General Sir Simon Cooper, Master of Her Majesty's Household, 60; Mr Ian Findlay, former chairman, Lloyd's, 78; Lord Gibson, 80; Mr Clifford Haigh, 90; Mrs Molly Hattersley, 63; Miss Susan Hill, novelist and playwright, 54; Professor Sir Alan Hodgkin, OM, former Master, Trinity College, Cambridge, 82; the Hon Douglas Hogg, QC, MP, 51; General Sir Geoffrey Howler, 60;

Mr M.E.P. Jones, director, National Museums of Scotland, 45; Mr Dennis Kennedy, chairman, Honeywell, 61; Mr David Martin, MP, 51; Lord Justice Morritt, 58; Mr Frank Muir, writer and broadcaster, 76; Professor A.M. Neville, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of York, 73; Miss Charlotte Rampling, actress, 50; Canon Colin Semper, former Provost of Coventry, 58; Sir Michael Simpson-Orebar, diplomat, 64; Sir Rodney Sweetnam, President, Royal College of Surgeons, 70; Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, 51; Leslie Young, former chairman, British Waterways Board, 71.

Nature notes

In spite of the weather, cock greenfinches are beginning to quarrel with each other over the females in the flock, and pairs will soon be forming. Some cock birds are also making their long, stinging spring call. Song-thrushes fell silent during the coldest weather, but some are now singing again; the first chaffinches are also singing. Collared doves are making their triple coo on roofs and television aerials.

But the countryside is still thronged with winter visitors from the sub-Arctic. Waxwings have now spread over the whole of the British Isles, and have been observed in Dublin town centre. Redwings are very common at present, and are feeding on the last remaining hawthorn berries: they are like song-thrushes, but when they fly they show a red flash under their wings. Field catskins, or



The redwing

"lamb's tails" are swinging loose, but are still green: they will slowly turn yellow as the pollen develops in them. The pollen will be blown onto the female flowers, which are tiny red stars, just beginning to form on the same trees as the catkins.

Leaves are opening on the corky, grey elder twigs: it is a tree that thrives among humans, since it grows best on disturbed earth.

DJM

Memorial service

Lady Killick
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Lady (John) Killick was held on Saturday at St Peter's, Southborough, Kent. The Rev Clive Portman officiated and gave an address.

Memorial meeting
Professor Donald Coleman gave a memorial meeting for Professor Donald Coleman, formerly Fellow of Pembroke College and Professor of Economic History at Cambridge University, was held on Saturday at Pembroke College.

Luncheon
Hertfordshire Lieutenant Colonel James Bolton presided at a luncheon given by the Deputy Lieutenants of Hertfordshire on Saturday at Knebworth House to mark the tenth anniversary of the appointment of Mr Simon Bowles as Lord Lieutenant.

School news
Claymore School celebrates its centenary this year. Founded by Alex Devine at Enfield in February 1896, it moved to Iwerne Minster, Dorset in 1933. In commemoration there will be a service of thanksgiving in Salisbury Cathedral on Saturday, March 2, at 11.00am. This will feature the combined choirs and musicians of the Senior and Preparatory Schools; the Bishop of Salisbury will give an address. Old Claymores and friends of the school are welcome to attend; they are asked to contact the school to confirm attendance (Telephone 01747 312015). Further events in the centenary calendar include the Centenary Ball on May 25 and a Summer Fair on June 23.

Tudor Hall School
Tudor Hall School (founded 1850) celebrates 50 years at Wytham Park this year. Old Tudorians, former staff and friends of the school who would like to share events to be held on Saturday, May 12, to which they are all welcome, should write sending a stamped addressed envelope to: Tudor Hall, Wytham Park, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 9UR.

The Earl of Warwick
A memorial service for the Earl of Warwick will be held at St Mary's, Warwick, on Monday, February 19, at 12.15pm. Travel arrangements: a train departs Marylebone at 4.45am and arrives at Warwick at 11.30am. A coach will be waiting at Warwick station to take people to the church and return them after the service.



Caution, friendly otters crossing
terminal at Sallom Voe. But they have failed to slow the death toll among otters, whose numbers have gradually risen on Shetland to more than 1,000.

Open door provided for homeless

By KATE ALDERSON

FOR the past two years the Furness Homeless Support Group has been operating a full-time service offering food and advice to 35 daily visitors in an old draughty portable building.

However, a house, known as the Agnes McDowell Project, has now been specially converted to provide emergency accommodation and drop-in centre facilities for the homeless of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.

The town is still suffering from the social fall-out of 10,000 people being made redundant over the last two years. The number of homeless people and those requiring short-term emergency accommodation has increased.

Until the Agnes McDowell Project was conceived there were no hostels in Barrow and very little prospect of finding shelter for clients as wide-ranging as teenage single mothers to middle-aged men and women, suffering temporary hardship. Jim Vince, 72,



who runs a car dealership and property company, is a member of the Furness homeless group and regularly helped with the Christmas shelter project.

Anxious for the group to secure proper premises that were not overcrowded he approached a local pensioner, William McDowell, who owned a ramshackle house standing empty in Barrow. Mr McDowell initially agreed to rent the three-storey property to

the group and then offered it for sale for a nominal amount on condition it was named after his mother, Agnes McDowell.

A sale price of £15,000 was agreed with Mr McDowell, who then said the group could borrow the money from him to purchase the property and repay him at £2,000 per year. The rebuilding and renovation work was carried out by Mr Vince's company and with a no-profit basis with much of the building material provided at discount. The top two storeys of the property have been renovated, partially paid for by £17,000 of charitable funding. The ground floor will become the day support centre with a fully fitted kitchen, dining room and offices for counselling and advice.

Food is provided by local branches of Marks & Spencer, Tesco, Asda and other local food stores. The large stores became involved after members of staff began working as volunteers with the homeless in the town.

Anne Diss, who works for

Community Action Furness, chairs the group. "This project would not have been possible without the commercial sector of Barrow," she said. "The willingness to help has been brilliant and we have only had to pay for materials and basic labour."

Mr Vince became involved in the project because of his close ties with the town: "I came here to the town in 1943 and have done well out of the place and felt I had to put something back into it," he said.

"We don't have the homeless sleeping on the streets of Barrow in cardboard boxes but there is still a problem with people trying to sleep on someone else's floor or in bed-and-breakfasts. More jobs are threatened at Vickers and prospects for employment locally do not look good. We need this centre more than ever."

The Agnes McDowell Project is one of the winners of the 1995 Community Enterprise Awards, organised by Business in the Community and sponsored by The Times and Touche Ross.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.E. Back and Miss A.M. Gomez
The engagement is announced between Daniel, younger son of Mr Erich Back, of Essex, Surrey, and Mrs Christine Back, of Quimper, France, and Amanda, daughter of Dr and Mrs F.A.R. Gomez, of Reigate, Surrey.

Mr A.J. Brown and Miss C.S. Neame
The engagement is announced between Alisdair, son of Mr and Mrs James Brown, of Selkirk, Camille, daughter of Mr Richard Neame, of Bishopscote, Kent, and Mrs Andrea Neame, of Rymer, Intrinseca, Dorset.

Mr R.W. Furness and Miss A.F. Mubeson
The engagement is announced between Rupert, only son of Professor and Mrs Raymond Furness, of Bournemouth, Fife, and Fiona, only daughter of Dr and Mrs Christopher Mubeson, of Colton, Norfolk.

Lieutenant M.H. Glenn and Miss E.L. O'Donnell
The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Stuart Henry Glenn, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters, only son of Mr and Mrs Ian Glenn, of Lundy, Nottinghamshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Niall O'Donnell, of Wendon Lofts, Suffolk, Essex.

Marriages

Sir Richard Rashleigh and Miss E.F.C. McGough
The marriage took place on Saturday in Eton College Chapel, of Sir Richard Rashleigh, son of the late Sir Henry and Lady Rashleigh, of Stowford, Devon, and Miss Emma McGough, eldest daughter of Mr John McGough and Lady Adams, and step-daughter of Sir Anthony Adams, of the Provost's Lodge, Eton. Canon D.R. Macintyre and the Rev Dr M. Clarkson officiated.

The bride was attended by Zoe Wilson, Florence Wilson, Araminta Wilson, Charlotte Emerson, Emma Howard and Edward Argles. Dr John Ogle was best man.

Mr E.J.B. Stensfeld and Miss M.K.M. Brackenbury
The marriage took place on January 27, at Holme Pierrepont Church, between Mr Edward Stensfeld and Miss Mary Brackenbury.

1679: Philipp Jakob Spener, theologian, founder of pietism, Berlin, 1705; Thomas Carlyle, writer and historian, London, 1881; A.B. (Banjo) Paterson, Australian folk poet and author of *Waltzing Matilda*, 1942; George Arliss, actor, London, 1940; H.M. Tomlinson, novelist and essayist, London, 1958; Marianne Moore, poet, New York, 1972; Eric Fressburg, film producer, Suffolk, 1988.

Rossini's opera *The Barber of Seville* was first performed in Rome, 1816.

The Prince of Wales was declared Prince Regent, 1817.

The RAF College at Cranwell, Lincolnshire, was founded, 1920.

Laker Airways collapsed with debts of £270 million, 1982.

BMDs: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS

DYVSTRA - On 25th January, in Felicit (de Groot) to Tony, a son, Barnaby Theo, a brother for Dominic and Tessa.

FRANKS - On 2nd February, to Charles and Carol, a daughter, Eliza Harriet.

GROSER - On January 30th, at Addenrode, Cambridge, to Jane (née Allen) and Robert, a beautiful daughter, Alice Elizabeth. Duo gratias Ann, mother of Robert, and Anna, mother of Robert, and Andrew, a son, George John Peter.

MANNING - On the 21st January at 11.45 am in Chorley, Lancashire, to Karen and Karen (née Hiscio), a son, Daniel, brother to Benjamin.

McCALLUM - On 26th January 1996, to Jane and Alan, a daughter, Isabella Charlotte Ann.

MEDDINGS - On 27th January 1996 to Heather (née Todd) and Richard, a beautiful son, James Henry (aka) Todd.

DEATHS

BECKETT - On 30th January 1996, suddenly, at home, Sylvia Beckett (née Jones), widow of Henry, aged 80 years. Funeral Services at Christ Church, Churchyard, London SW3 at 1.30 pm on Wednesday 14th February, followed by private cremation. No flowers please.

FARRANT - On February 2nd 1996 peacefully John Bright Farrant, 92 years old, husband of Mary, daughter of Hugh, Martin, Susan and Richard. Much loved grandfather and great grandfather. Funeral service at St Michael and All Angels Church, Clifton Hampden on Friday February 9th at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to The Friends of St Michael and All Angels Church c/o Edward Carter (FD) 107 South Avenue, Abingdon OX14 1GB.

GOODA - Sarah Jane Chatterer, 10 years old, much loved wife of Anthony and mother of William, Matthew and Emily. Funeral will take place at 10 am on Wednesday 7th February at St Mary The Virgin, Shilley, near Northam. All enquiries to Freeman Bros Northam, tel: 01405 284499.

DEATHS

GOODMAN - Edward of Monksfield, 84, died on 27th January 1996. He was the son of the late Mr and Mrs E. Goodman. He was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. He was a devoted husband and father. He was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. He was a devoted husband and father. He was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. He was a devoted husband and father.

ROSES - Edward Arthur, 81, died on 27th January 1996. He was the son of the late Mr and Mrs E. Roses. He was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. He was a devoted husband and father. He was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. He was a devoted husband and father.

WALLMAN - Peter D.O.G., 61/2/45, died on 27th January 1996. He was the son of the late Mr and Mrs E. Wallman. He was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. He was a devoted husband and father. He was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. He was a devoted husband and father.

HADJO - Elizabeth on 2nd February 1996, at home after short illness aged 84. She was the wife of the late Mr Hadjo. She was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. She was a devoted husband and father. She was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. She was a devoted husband and father.

HUTCHISON - Patrick Hamilton O.B.E., formerly of London, died on 30th January 1996, aged 93. He was the son of the late Mr and Mrs E. Hutchison. He was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. He was a devoted husband and father. He was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. He was a devoted husband and father.

LAW - Cecilia (née Dowd) aged 83 of Aldwick, Bognor Regis, died on 27th January 1996. She was the wife of the late Mr Law. She was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. She was a devoted husband and father. She was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. She was a devoted husband and father.

MURTON WEBB - Charles Harry, 84, died on 27th January 1996. He was the son of the late Mr and Mrs E. Murton Webb. He was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. He was a devoted husband and father. He was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. He was a devoted husband and father.

WELSON - Ailsie Mary, 84, died on 27th January 1996. She was the wife of the late Mr Welson. She was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. She was a devoted husband and father. She was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. She was a devoted husband and father.

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MEMORIAL SERVICES

CORY WRIGHT - A Memorial Service for Elizabeth Cory Wright O.B.E. D.L. will be held at St Giles Church, Churchyard, London SW3 at 1.30 pm on Wednesday 14th February, followed by private cremation. No flowers please.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

LIVANAGE - Wilmet 81, died on 27th January 1996. She was the wife of the late Mr Livanage. She was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. She was a devoted husband and father. She was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. She was a devoted husband and father.

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MURTON WEBB - Charles Harry, 84, died on 27th January 1996. He was the son of the late Mr and Mrs E. Murton Webb. He was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. He was a devoted husband and father. He was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. He was a devoted husband and father.

WELSON - Ailsie Mary, 84, died on 27th January 1996. She was the wife of the late Mr Welson. She was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. She was a devoted husband and father. She was a member of the Monksfield Baptist Church. She was a devoted husband and father.

FARRANT - On February 2nd 1996 peacefully John Bright Farrant, 92 years old, husband of Mary, daughter of Hugh, Martin, Susan and Richard. Much loved grandfather and great grandfather. Funeral service at St Michael and All Angels Church, Clifton Hampden on Friday February 9th at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to The Friends of St Michael and All Angels Church c/o Edward Carter (FD) 107 South Avenue, Abingdon OX14 1GB.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Notice is hereby given that the Charity Commission for England and Wales has received an application for the registration of the following charity:

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OBITUARIES

GENE KELLY

Gene Kelly, dancer, choreographer and film actor, died in Los Angeles on February 2 aged 83. He was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on August 23, 1912.

THE career of Gene Kelly, which spanned four decades, was a classic American success story, with virtually no setbacks. Almost at once he established himself as a dancer without rival on screen apart from the perennial Fred Astaire, and his later work extended itself to choreography and film direction with equal success. Two, at least, of the films he starred in, choreographed and directed, *On the Town* (1949) and *Singin' in the Rain* (1952), are among the unquestioned classics of the cinema.

Yet, in spite of these triumphs it often seemed that Kelly was not a natural dancer. In the way Astaire was. There was always an awareness of the pains he was taking, the sheer hard work of brain and body which went into his performances. But this sense of physicality, of constant struggle, was an important and perhaps the most personal element of his style. It was all of a piece with the extrovert, insistently masculine quality of his dancing. It is not coincidental that one of his later television specials was called *Dancing: A Man's Game*. It was possible to find Kelly's screen personality antithetical, but not to deny him the major credit for some of the American cinema's finest films and some of its most exciting musical moments.

Gene Curran Kelly was born of Irish parents. Sent by his mother to dance school from the age of seven, he graduated early from being taught to teaching himself, and by his early twenties was running two dance schools. In 1938 he decided to try his luck on Broadway, and soon got a part as a specialty dancer in the Cole Porter musical *Leave It to Me*. From that he went on to ever bigger roles in various musical shows, and worked as dance director on several.

He first made a big impression in 1939 playing the role of Harry the Hooper in the first production of Saroyan's *The Time of Your Life*, and the following year became unmistakably a star when he played the title role in the Rodgers and Hart musical *Pal Joey*, in which he was required to sing, dance and act as the unscrupulous gigolo and would-be owner of a nightclub. It was his enormous success in this show which got him



With Debbie Reynolds in *Singin' in the Rain*

noticed by Hollywood, though curiously enough he was never called upon in Hollywood to play anything so tough and cynical. There his screen persona was to develop into something more wholesome, athletic and unmistakably all-American.

He went out to Hollywood under contract to David O. Selznick, but Selznick had no suitable role for him, and his first film was a loan-out to MGM. It was a musical, *For Me and My Gal* (1942), and in it he had a starring role, opposite Judy Garland. The teaming (repeated on subsequent occasions) was a success, the film was a success, and MGM liked their new star so much they bought up his contract. The connection was to be a long and happy one, since Kelly stayed at the same studio for the next

15 years and made 27 films for it during that time, including nearly all of his classics.

Though through the years Gene Kelly did from time to time play non-singing, non-dancing roles in straight dramas, he and everybody else felt that his special talents lay in the musical area. He began as a dancer, but already on stage he had had experience as a director and choreographer, and before long he began to fulfil these functions in the cinema too.

He began to choreograph his own numbers with *Thousands Cheer* (1943), the most memorable part of which was a dance in which he used a mop as his partner. In *Cover Girl*, made the next year on loan to Columbia, he starred opposite Rita

Hayworth and had the opportunity to develop more fully his qualities as a performer and choreographer. The film contains one of his first anthology-pieces, the "alter ego" dance in which he dances with himself in double-exposure.

Experimentation of this kind with the actual materials of the medium was to remain a continuing preoccupation with Kelly. The form to which he was to return most frequently first appears in *Anchors Aweigh* (1945), which features a sequence in which he dances in a cartoon framework, matching his actions with those of animated characters. He was to return to this not, finally, very satisfactory procedure in *Invitation to a Dance* (1952-56) and his later television version of *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

Other films of these years which remain memorable include *Ziegfeld Follies* (1946), in which for the first time he danced with Fred Astaire; *The Pirate* (1948), a musical by Cole Porter in which he was happily reunited with Judy Garland; and *Living in a Big Way* (1947), a curious comedy-drama by Gregory La Cava into which were interpolated a couple of excellent numbers devised by Kelly and his regular collaborator Stanley Donen.

These two evidently wanted even more overall control over the films they worked on, and in *Take Me Out to the Ball Game* (1949) they were given it when they originated the story and collaborated on the direction, under the practised eye of Busby Berkeley. This breezy musical of life in a baseball team, with Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra and Jules Munshin as the three male principals, was obviously a sort of sketch for the following year's *On the Town*, in which Kelly and Donen for the first time received full directorial credit; it was perhaps the most innovative single film in the history of the musical.

What was really original about *On the Town* was its complete freedom of form, with song, dance and dramatic action merging almost imperceptibly into one another, each used according to the best interests of the moment. Its refreshing use of actual locations let fresh air into the studio conventions usual at that time for the musical. If anything, the formula was improved upon in the next Kelly-Donen collaboration, *Singin' in the Rain*, a loving recreation of Hollywood in a period of transition with the coming of sound, which permitted Kelly himself to give one of his

most charming performances and create one of his most magical moments in his solo version of the title number.

A third Kelly-Donen collaboration, *It's Always Fair Weather*, followed, less successfully, in 1955, but meanwhile Kelly had branched out on his own to make *Invitation to a Dance* (1956), a feature film consisting entirely of dance episodes. This was his most cherished and personal concept but unfortunately for the most part it showed up rather cruelly the limitations of his range as a choreographer. This had been much better served in *An American in Paris* (1951), one of the most popular among his films, in which he worked as star and choreographer with Vincente Minnelli as director. It climaxed in the famous ballet sequence which remains one of the screen's most ambitious attempts to come to terms directly with the dance.

After the end of his contract with MGM in *Les Girls* (1957) Kelly turned increasingly to straight acting, in films like *Inherit the Wind* (1960), in which he played a cynical journalist based on H. L. Menckens, and to directing films in which he himself did not appear, most spectacularly *Hello Dolly!* in 1969. He also returned to the theatre, staging among other shows the Rodgers and Hammerstein *Flower Drum Song* and the spectacular, ill-fated *Clownaround*.

In 1974 he returned to his old home, MGM, as co-narrator of *That's Entertainment*, a compilation of great numbers from old MGM musicals. There was a sequel, directed by Kelly, *That's Entertainment Part Two*, in 1976, introduced by him and Fred Astaire. Kelly also participated in a third dose of the same medicine, *That's Entertainment III* (1994), directed by Bud Friedgen and Michael J. Sheridan. Cyd Charisse, Lena Horne, Debbie Reynolds and Mickey Rooney were among the stars of Hollywood's past featured on that occasion, but not Fred Astaire, who had died in 1987.

Gene Kelly was three times married. His first marriage, in 1940, to the actress Betsy Blair ended in divorce in 1957. His second wife, a dance assistant, Jeanne Coyne, died in 1973. After her death Kelly raised their children. In 1990 he married the writer Patricia Ward and is survived by her and by the daughter of his first marriage and the son and daughter of his second.

MAJOR-GENERAL REYNELL TAYLOR



Major-General Reynell Taylor, CB, Chief of Staff, HQ British Army of the Rhine, 1980-84, died from heart failure on January 22 aged 67. He was born on April 5, 1928.

REYNELL TAYLOR was the fifth generation of military officers in his family, three of whom became generals. His first military forebear, a 10th Hussar, was on Wellington's staff at Waterloo, and he is reputed to have almost caused the loss of the battle. He was sent to guide the Prussians in their attack on Napoleon's flank, but he lost his way, causing the near fatal delay to Blücher's intervention. Another forebear, Colonel William Morris, led the 17th Lancers at Balaklava.

Walter Reynell Taylor, the son of Colonel Richard Reynell Taylor of The King's Own Scottish Borderers, was educated at Wellington College, where he showed himself to be an extrovert, an able leader with a good brain, and a first-class athlete. He was head of school, head of house, captain of rugby and the Victor Ludorum in athletics. After attending one of the earliest postwar courses at Sandhurst, he was commissioned in the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, which he joined at Sabratha in Tripolitania in 1948.

The promise which he had shown at Wellington as a leader and games player was confirmed as a junior regimental officer with the addition of being a first-class horseman and polo player. He had a natural talent for leading his troops, who enjoyed being under his command, and he became one of the founder members of the Royal Armoured Corps' Junior Leaders' Regiment at Bovington.

He started his staff career in 1957 as a student at the Staff College, Camberley, to which, after a two-year exchange appointment in Canada, he was brought back as a Staff College instructor. As the GSO2 (Coord) he did much of the planning for the reintroduction of battlefield tours.

Promoted lieutenant-colonel in 1967, he went out to Singapore as a member of the Defence Planning Staff. The confrontation with Indonesia had just ended, and he was faced instead with the depressing business of planning the Wilson Government's withdrawal from the Far East. Luckily his tour was cut short by his being given command of his regiment in Germany in 1969; he returned to the Staff College as a full colonel two years later.

He was now moving up into the policymaking reaches of the Army. He had proved himself a man of high principles who worked tirelessly and optimistically, making many friends from all walks of life. Promoted brigadier in 1972, he

had a successful command of the 12th Mechanised Brigade at Osnabrück where his abilities and relaxed approach were reflected in a colleague's remark: "Everyone thoroughly enjoyed being in his brigade; he made it fun."

He spent 1975 at the Royal College of Defence Studies in Belgrave Square from which he entered the Ministry of Defence for the first time in the key appointment of Brigadier General Staff, Military Operations. It was a depressing period to serve in Whitehall: defence was suffering swinging financial cuts in the last days of the Callaghan Labour Government before Margaret Thatcher began to restore some of the damage.

He escaped from Whitehall on promotion to major-general in 1978 when he was appointed Commander British Troops, Cyprus, and administrator of the Sovereign Base Areas. This was a job he enjoyed and which came naturally to him. His outstanding negotiating skills, enthusiasm and determination helped to re-establish Anglo-Cypriot relations that had been so soured by the Turkish invasion of the island, which many Greek Cypriots accused Britain of failing to pre-empt. He was universally liked, and before he left in 1980 he acted as British Military Representative on the combined US/UK task force for the support of the Western nations in Beirut. He was appointed CB in 1981 for his services in Cyprus.

His last appointment in the Army was as Chief of Staff in HQ British Army of the Rhine. He retired in 1984 and went back to Cyprus where he had made many friends and contacts involved in Middle Eastern affairs. There he became Director of the Middle East Management Training Centre in Nicosia.

On his return to England in 1987, he bought a farm in Somerset. He took up a consultancy in the concrete industry, and latterly became marketing director of EST, the concrete plant specialists. He investigated and won approval from the Ministry of Defence for a joint venture scheme for the manufacture of the firm's range of concrete batching plants and for the transfer of technology to Saudi Arabia under the al-Yamamah economic offset programme. He spent a considerable time in the Gulf states promoting the project, and was well respected for his knowledge and diplomacy. He was still involved with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states at the time of his sudden death.

He married Doreen Myrtle Dodge in 1954. They had a son, who joined his father's regiment, and a daughter. His second wife, whom he married in 1982, was Rosemary Gardner (née Breed). They had one son. Both his families survive him.

BRODRICK HALDANE



Brodrick Haldane, society photographer, died in hospital in Edinburgh on February 3 aged 83. He was born on July 12, 1912.

SIR Cecil Beaton, looking back shortly before his death at the great photographer whose pictures had chronicled prewar London society, observed: "Of course, it was Brodrick Haldane who began what we now call photojournalism. He was taking pictures at private parties long before me. He was really the founder of modern society photography."

Unlike Beaton, however, and also the Earls of Snowdon and Lichfield, of whom he was an early mentor, Haldane never used artificial and studio lighting, preferring always to capture his subjects in natural light. His camera, invariably a Rolleiflex, recorded great beauties like Marlene Dietrich and Margaret Duchess of Argyll with the same fidelity as a group of Stirling housewives, photographed like a flock of black crows against the fading light, or an Italian urchin gazing out to sea on the waterfront in Naples.

Brodrick Vernon Chinnery Haldane was born in Edinburgh into one of Scotland's great landed families. He was the youngest of the four children of James Brodrick Chinnery Haldane, 26th Laird of Gleneagles, and his wife, Katharine Napier. His cousins included the Liberal Lord Chancellor, Viscount Haldane of Cloan, the scientists John Scott Haldane and J. B. S. Haldane, and the novelist Naomi Mitchinson.

His boyhood was divided between Gleneagles, his family's 7,000-acre ancestral estate in Perthshire's Ochil Hills, and Althshelach, the Haldane mansion at Nether Lochaber, in Inverness-shire. While at Landing College, he began contributing items to London gossip columns and in 1930, at a fête at Glamis Castle, he took his first professional photographs — of the Countess of Strathmore, mother of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother — using a Box Brownie. One indignant laird, who declined to pose for him that day, said to his father: "I trust this is merely a passing phase."

The Haldanes were against when he also became an actor, appearing with Sir Philip Ben Greet's company in *Everyman* at the Westminster Theatre, in several other West End productions, and also in films, including *Murder at Monte Carlo* with the young Errol Flynn; *Get Your Man*, with Rex Harrison; *Happy*, with Dorothy Hyson; and *Two Hearts in Waltz Time*, with Valerie Hobson.

His first great photographic coup was persuading the reclusive George Bernard Shaw to pose for him. Nervous and fumbling, as Haldane invariably was while working, he won the sympathy of Shaw, who rose from his chair and took a light reading for him. Somerset Maugham, Charles Chaplin, Noël Coward and Compton Mackenzie all became close friends, and visits to the South of France produced unusual pictures of Marlene Dietrich bathing, and a warm friendship with the future American President, John F. Kennedy, and his family.

The Queen Mother, a great admirer of Haldane's work, once rebuked her detective for impeding his view of her at a public function. "Mr Haldane is a friend of mine," said Her Majesty firmly. "Now, Brodrick, where would you like me to stand?" The Duchess of Windsor was equally obliging, patiently holding Haldane's flashbulbs at one party, while the late Aga Khan forgave him when those same flashbulbs exploded, showering him with fine glass.

In 1941, while serving with the Royal Artillery at Chatham — where he read *Vogue* between bomb attacks and

made a rocky around the gun emplacements — his father died and was succeeded as 27th Laird of Gleneagles by Brodrick's elder brother, Alex, a hero of Dunkirk. Thereafter, for almost 50 years, he was styled Younger of Gleneagles, until 1990, when his brother appointed his cousin, Martin Haldane — who, unlike Brodrick, was married with children — as his heir. It was Martin who succeeded as 28th Laird of Gleneagles in 1994 on the death of Alex.

A handsome man, somewhat vain about his appearance, Haldane stood on his head for five minutes every

morning to assist his hair growth, and underwent a facelift at 60 to remove lines from around his mouth.

His brother did not entirely approve, when, in 1976, he opened his ornate Georgian flat in Edinburgh to the public. There, he dispensed tea and gave a personal guided tour of such Haldane heirlooms as the wheelchair used by his novelist ancestor, Sir Walter Scott.

In 1992, at the age of 79, he made an unexpected return to acting, appearing as the Judge's Clerk in the Scottish television drama series, *The Advocates*.

By then, he had been long recognised as one of the most celebrated photographers in the world. Karsh of Ottawa called him "the greatest living British photographer" and both Lord Snowdon and Lord Lichfield publicly acknowledged their debt to his early help and influence.

Though suffering from cancer, Haldane travelled to Romania in April last year, and was received at Cotroceni Palace in Bucharest by President Ion Iliescu, of whom he took his last important photographs. The visit displeased ex-King Michael of Romania, whose grandmother, Queen Marie, had known Haldane in his youth.

He was a great gossip; there was little of social consequence that was not first discussed in his drawing room before it became public. Never a snob, he ignored all social distinctions. His two maids and his former window cleaner were among his closest friends. His charm and savoir faire disguised a strong character. Attempts to persuade him to abandon Margaret Duchess of Argyll, after the scandal of the late duke's divorce action against her, were resolutely rebuffed, and she remained a welcome guest in his home until her death.

During the last weeks of his life, he completed his autobiography with the help of the Scottish writer Roddy Martine. In his final interview, published last month, Haldane told Lynn Barber: "I don't care what you say about me, as long as you make it amusing."

He never married and is survived by his cousin Martin, the 28th Laird of Gleneagles.

Church news

Latest appointments include:
The Rev Jeremy Allcock, Curate-in-charge, St Luke, Walthamstow; to be Vicar, East Ham, St Paul (Chesham).
The Rev Philip Ashdown, Assistant Curate, Houghton-le-Spring (Durham); to be Assistant Curate, St Andrew-on-Tees (Durham), and Chaplain to University College, Stockton (York).
The Rev Joy Bradley, Assistant Curate, Wadley, Sheffield; to be Assistant Curate, Mosborough (Sheffield).
The Rev Richard Brand, Curate, St John the Baptist, Croydon (Southwark); to be Senior Curate, St Barnabas, Farnham, Christchurch, New Zealand.
The Rev Bryan Carrow, Rector, Cret and Little, Henry and Walsingham and Wickham St Paul Wiltshire; to be also Assistant Rural Dean of Hinkford (Chesham).
The Rev Jane Clay, Assistant

Priest, Lupset St George; to be part-time Chaplain at New Hall Prison and Young Offenders Unit, Flockton, Wakefield (Wakefield).
The Rev Dr Mark Doreen, Curate, Harrogate, St Edmunds (Birmingham); to be Chaplain to The King's School, Worcester, and Minor Canon of Worcester Cathedral.
Canon Roger Gilbert, Rector, Fulmouth, an Honorary Canon of Tyrry Cathedral, and Rural Dean of Carmarthen South (Tyrry); to be a Chaplain to The Queen.
Canon Michael Glynn-Smith, Residentiary Canon of Ripon Cathedral; to be also Rural Dean of Ripon.
The Rev John Gooding, permission to officiate, diocese of Guildford; to be Assistant Curate, St John, Egham, same diocese.
The Rev Christopher Greenwell, Vicar, Nether Heyland St Andrew (Sheffield); to be Vicar, Kirk-leathum (York).
The Rev Malcolm Griffiths, Team

Vicar, Liskeard, St Keyne, St Pinnock, Marval and Bradock; to be Vicar, Landrake St Erney and Botus Fleming (Tyrry).
The Rev Jesse Van Der Valk, Vicar, Harrogate and Highbury (Wakefield); to be Vicar, St Mary Magdalene w St Michael and All Angels, Woolwich (Southwark).
The Rev Bruce Wallis, Curate, Maidstone St Martin (Canterbury); to be Team Vicar, Banbury Team Ministry (Oxford).
The Rev Carolyn Walling, presently in Saudi Arabia; to be Priest-in-charge, St Peter, Lee (Southwark).
The Rev Andrew White, Assistant Curate, St Matthew, Croydon; to be Curate, Holy Trinity, South Wimbledon (Southwark).
Other appointments:
The Right Rev Geoffrey Rowell, Bishop of Bathurst, to be president of the governors of Pusey House, Oxford, succeeding Mr Philip Sturrock.

Resignations and retirements:
Canon Dick Jones, Team Rector, St Peter w St Stephen and St Withun, Bournemouth (Winchester); to retire March 31.
The Rev Roy Foreman, Team Vicar, St Mary w St Stephen, Walthamstow (Chesham); to retire on October 31.
The Rev Raymond Hayne, Vicar, Reading St Mark (Oxford); to retire on April 30.
The Rev Dr Ann Shukman, NSM, Steple Aston w North Aston and Tackley (Oxford); to retire, with permission to officiate, same diocese.
Prebendary Gordon Thompson, retired; has resigned as a Prebendary of Hereford Cathedral, and is appointed a Prebendary Emeritus.
Canon Alan Treherne, Team Rector, Gateacre (Liverpool); to be appointed a Canon Emeritus on his retirement on April 7.

MR HEATH STEPS DOWN AFTER 11-VOTE DEFEAT BY MRS THATCHER

By David Wood
Political Editor
The contest for the Conservative Party leadership now lies between Mrs Thatcher and Mr William Whitelaw, the Conservative Party chairman. After Mr Heath had withdrawn last night under the blow of a defeat by Mrs Thatcher on the first ballot, Mr Whitelaw came under strong pressure from a group of backbenchers to declare his candidature for the second ballot.

Like many other Conservatives, Mr Whitelaw is conscious of the personal tragedy that has overwhelmed Mr Heath. It would be a callous politician who failed to recognize it. Mr Heath continues nominally as Opposition leader until the new leader has emerged on the second or third ballot, but in fact he has asked Mr Robert Carr, the shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, to undertake his duties in the House. He is retreating into the background, badly hurt but not finished.

There is no doubt that Mr Whitelaw or Mrs Thatcher, if elected leader, would immediately call him on to the front bench to play a full part in the revival of the Conservative Party and the

ON THIS DAY
February 5, 1975

In the Tory leadership election that brought Mrs Thatcher to power, she won 146 votes against Mr Whitelaw's 79 on the second ballot. Mr Heath never again sat on the front bench.

Opposition in the Commons... Mrs Thatcher, surrounded by her backbench promoters last night, refused to assume the final victory that would make her the first woman party leader and the first potential woman Prime Minister in British history. She simply said that she would fight the second ballot and then the third ballot. She showed how steady she can be and noted the importance of her first ballot lead, but she added that the fight had not yet ended.

Mrs Thatcher, like Conservative backbenchers, knows that among her votes may be some that were tactically cast to ensure a

second ballot, rather than to ensure her emergence as the new leader. Mr Fraser's 10 votes probably had an anti-feminine motivation and therefore cannot be counted on. Nor can the 11 blank papers or abstentionist votes.

For there is little doubt that yesterday the Conservative rank and file was voting out Mr Heath rather than picking its new leader... Mr Heath has to summon up all his remarkable sources of courage. He will face the scorn of the House as best he can and it would be a meagre spirit that did not feel for him... Mrs Thatcher, in her first public appearance as a potential party leader last night, showed her mettle and her quality. An hour after the result of the count had been declared, she appeared in committee room 14 to face the television cameras, the radio microphones, the photographers, and journalists.

Characteristically, she set out to dominate the company. She called for the cameras to be still. At first, an over-excited group of journalists ignored her request. She made clear that she would not be disobeyed; and when she realized that the microphones were still working she thrust them right and left, away from her, with both hands.

It was a remarkable and commanding debut and in an important sense illustrated what kind of party leader she would be...

